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Thursday, August 29, 1974
Bhadra 7, 1896 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Eleventh Session)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday August 29, 1974/Bhadra 7 1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Economy in use of Steel

+

*549 SHRI P GANGADEB
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry have considered the steps to economize on the use of steel as suggested by the Committee appointed for this purpose

(b) if so whether category-wise adjustments to curb non-essential use of items are being evolved and

(c) if so the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

There are some constraints in the implementation of certain recommendations of the Committee such as availability of cement, availability of suitable grade of bricks, timber etc and technological constraints in the production of some categories of steel. It would also be necessary to have the recommendations regarding changes in design examined further by other concerned autnorities like Indian Standards Institution, Central Water & Power Commission Central Public Works Department etc. as to the extent to which it would be feasible to adopt them in practice This is being further examined

However, Government have been considering several schemes for achieving economy in steel Through a Government order issued in 1965 production of structurals in sizes other than those covered by the Indian Standards was banned The steel plants in the country have been producing medium series of structurals only since light series specified by I S I cannot be produced in the existing mills As a result of production of standard structural sizes, it is estimated that a saving of about 12½ per cent in consumption of structural steel has been achieved.

Government have also been encouraging production and use of cold twisted bars, the total production of which since 1968-69 is about a million tonnes Through the use of cold twisted bars, it has been estimated that there has been a saving of about 20 per cent or (200,000 tonnes) of steel needed for concrete reinforcement

SHRI P GANGADEB: In view of the fact that the Government is keen on economising the use of steel and exporting it to earn foreign exchange, I would like to know from

the hon. Minister what are the latest directives that have been issued after careful consideration or are proposed to be issued by the Ministry in regard to banning the use of steel for non-essential purposes.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: No directive, as such, has been issued so far, but there is a proposal to ban construction of buildings for non-essential purposes such as multi-storeyed buildings for office purposes, restaurants, etc., and use of steel will be allowed only for productive purposes.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I wish to further ask, since one of the reasons for misuse of steel is its easy availability in the black market, what concrete steps Government propose to take to check this malpractice so that unallocated steel does not find its way into the market.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Steel is not available in the market in an unchecked way. There are various controls on distribution. But still some steel does go into the black market, and those who are in a position to pay a high price for it get it for their purposes. It is precisely for this reason that construction of certain types of building is being banned. And it is hoped that it will lead to less use of steel for non-essential purposes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to know from the Minister whether it is true that out of the steel quotas that are assigned by the Centre in Maharashtra and particularly, in Bombay, 40 per cent of the steel quota is sold in the b ack market amounting to 2,000 tonnes of steel, whether an inquiry was instituted and whether it is a fact that the steel quota given to certain companies like Khira, J.K. and Hycostone has been cancelled as a result of black-marketing of steel

MR. SPEAKER: This is a general question whereas you are asking specific question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He referred to black market in steel. I took that trend and put my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking a specific question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As an illustration, is it true that in places like Bombay 40 per cent of the steel quota is sold in the black market, whether you had instituted an inquiry and whether it is also true that the three companies I had mentioned were denied their steel quota as they were found black-marketing in steel?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: This is a specific question. That will require an inquiry. I cannot answer the question whether it is 40 or 20 or 15 per cent that is sold in black market. But it is true that certain quantities of steel just go to undesirable places for being sold for profit-making. But I do not know more about it. If the hon. Member so desires, I will make an inquiry and answer.

डा० कैलाश : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ग्रोपन मार्केट में, ग्रगर उसे ब्लैक मार्केट न कहे, ग्रोपन मार्केट में फ्री ली स्टील मिलता है ग्रौर जब से ग्राप ने कैटेगरीवाइज नान-एसेंशियल के ऊपर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया है उस के बाद भी बम्बई के मार्केट में या ग्रौर जगह भी काफी स्टील मिल रहा है तो ग्राप के देने का तरीका गलत है , क्या कुछ फिक्टीशस फर्म्स को एलाट कर देते है या क्या करते हैं क्या उन पर प्रतिबन्ध इस कैटेगरीवाइज ग्राइटम के लगाने के बाद ग्राने वाला है या नहीं ? ग्रगर यह ग्राया है तो कितना ग्रौर उस के ग्रांकड़े ग्रा चुके हैं या नहीं ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : हम तो पूरी देखभाल रखते हैं। उसके कायदे और नियम बने हुए हैं। स्टील प्रायरिटी कमेटी है, वह देती है उन प्रायरिटी के मुताबिक और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को हम देते हैं। उनके मार्फत भी कुछ इधर उधर चला जाता है और कुछ फिक्टीशस कम्पनियां ऐसी हैं, यह हमें तो मालूम नहीं है, हम तो ऐसी कम्पनियों को कभी देते नहीं हैं, मगर किस तरह से निकल जाता है यह तो माननीय सदस्य समझ सकते हैं कि कैसे कुछ इधर उधर हो जाता है, इधर सीमेंट की कुछ कमी हो गई है, इसलिए कहीं कहीं कुछ स्टील की मांग में भी कमी आई है।

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: May I know from the Government if this policy to have one storeyed building in Delhi and other places is not counter to the basic principle of construction of houses all over the world that where the land is very costly, the buildings must go up and where it is cheaper, it should be the other way about? The landholders who have got the land at an exorbitant price will be put to a great loss if they are allowed to have only one storeyed buildings.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: These considerations must before the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development. I am not able to answer it.

श्री मान सिंह भौरा : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताएंगे कि इन की नोटिस में यह है कि बहुत सी फर्म्स ऐसी हैं जो दो-दो तीन और चार-चार फर्मों को रजिस्टर करवा लेती हैं और वह एक ही आदमी होता है जो भिन्न भिन्न फर्मों के नाम पर कोटा लेता है, वह ब्लैक मार्केट में चला जाता है? क्या कोई ऐसी जांच आप करवाना चाहते हैं जिस से इन जाली फर्मों का पता लगाया जा सके और उन्हें कोटा न दिया जा सके?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जो संगठन सरकार की तरफ से बनाया गया है, यदि उसे मालूम हो जाए कि अमुक फर्म दो-तीन नाम से लेती हैं तो उनको हरगिज नहीं दिया जाएगा। हमारे पास ऐसी कोई जानकारी नहीं है, अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई ऐसी जानकारी हो कि अमुक फर्म फर्जी नाम से लेती है और हमें वह जानकारी दे देंगे तब हम इस के आधार पर फायदा उठाएंगे।

डा० कैलाश: उन के नाम पेपर्स में आये हैं।

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : ऐसे लोग पकड़े भी गए हैं।

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: What type of use of steel is considered to be non-essential by the Government?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That has already been stated by my colleague. Government is contemplating to consider certain use of steel as non-essential, high-storeyed buildings, cinema houses and all that and we are restraining the consumption of steel by various methods. We hope that as a result of this use of steel for non-essential purposes will not be there. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: There are certain Member who get up on every question every day. I request them not to do it every day. They should give chance to others also. I am proceeding on this basis. Mr. Kachwai

श्रीहुक्म चन्द कछवाय : क्या यह बात सही है कि इस्पात की मांग देश में अत्याधिक बढ़ गई है? जब लोगों की मांग ज्यादा आने लगी तो आप ने नियम बनाया कि जो पैसा जमा कराएगा उसी का आर्डर बुक किया जायेगा

लेकिन अब वह प्रथा आपने समाप्त कर दी है और अब आप छानबीन कर के इस्पात देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन जिन लोगों ने आप के पास पैसा जमा कराया था वह दो साल से आप के पास पड़ा हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश का 3 करोड़ रुपया आपके पास जमा है। लोगों ने ब्याज पर रुपया लेकर आप के पास जमा कराया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूं—अब आप उन्हें मान देंगे या ब्याज देंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह सवाल इस से पैदा नहीं होता है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस से सम्बन्ध है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि लोगों का रुपया जमा है। इंडियन [illegible] इस रुपये का उपयोग कर रहा है जो लोगों से ब्याज पर ला कर इस के पास जमा कराया था ? दो साल से पैसा जमा है, अब उस का ब्याज भी नहीं देना चाहते---यह क्या बात है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय जिस का पैसा जमा है, उन का क्या बयान---यह बयान दें ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : यह बात सच है कि बहुत सी फर्में स्टील चाहती थीं, हम ने डिसट्रीब्यूटिंग एजेंसी से इन का जमा करना शुरू किया, उन्होंने रुपया भी जमा करा दिया। कुछ को दिया गया कुछ को नहीं दिया गया। अब यह प्रश्न विचाराधीन है-- जो निर्णय होगा आप के सामने आ जाएगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न ठीक है—जिन के ने पैसा जमा है, उन का इस में क्या कसूर है।

Reorganisation of Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad

*550. SHRI P G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad has been functioning in a very unsatisfactory way, causing a good deal of hardship and harassment to hundreds of applicants wishing to obtain their passports promptly.

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation, and

(c) whether the said Regional Office is being reorganised or broadened, and if so, the facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). (a) to (c). There have been complaints regarding delays in the issue and servicing of passports by the Regional Passports Office, Ahmedabad. To study the situation at first hand, two senior officers of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Ahmedabad in July, 1974. They took prompt remedial action. Improved procedures were introduced in order to avoid wastage of time in the issue of passports. Some additional staff has also been sanctioned so that the accumulated arrears could be cleared expeditiously. With the improvement in the procedures and strengthening of the staff, it has been possible to reduce the arrears.

Government is also considering adoption of other measures to im- adoption of other measures to imbad office.

SHRI P. G MAVALANKAR: Sir, this problem is not really confined to Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office

only, but in all such offices as well, including that of Bombay where accumulation is great. Ahmedabad Passport Office is for the whole of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. This regional office was established by Government in November, 1969. The Minis · knows that in the year 1970 the number of applications was 14,628. And in this current year, that is, from January to May, 1974, the number has already shot up to 11,336 applications. There is a tremendous rise in arrears and the work is very unsatisfactory.

In view of this, may I request the hon. Minister to spell out in great details? These points arise out of the answer that he has given. For example, my question is this. You said that two senior officers were sent from Delhi to Ahmedabad. What are their names? And when they came back to Delhi, did they make any report? If so, what are the particular recommendations contained in that report? Was there any mention about remedial measure? What were the procedures that were suggested? Whether they suggested? Whether they suggested appointment of any additional staff? If so, how many had been appointed? If not, why they were not appointed? You say that the arrears have been reduced. The answer is beautiful but it does not give the facts. I want the Minister's cooperation in the matter. I appreciate the answer given. You said they were to be appointed to reduce the arrears. I would now like to know how much arrears have they been able to reduce? You also said that other measures were being taken. What are those other measures?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I shall try to cooperate with you as much as possible. You have asked a large number of questions. The main question appears to be as to how we can improve the functioning of this office and what improvements were brought about. I shall bring it to your notice that when our team went in July, there were 10,000 cases of passport applications pending in that office. After some remedial action was taken and certain new procedures were adopted, this number came down to 4,000 by the end of July. At the present moment, that is, as on 24th August, there are only 1,500 cases pending in Ahmedabad office. From that it is clear that something has happened, as a result of which, the office is now functioning satisfactorily.

As regards the team, it went there and after visiting that office, it made some recommendations which are of the nature of both short-term and long-term measures such as improvement of procedures as to how the applications should be received and how they should be disposed of expeditiously. They also recommended a certain number of additional staff which were engaged on an *ad hoc* basis. As a result of that there is a great deal of improvement there. As regards long-term measures, there are a number of points made in that report which I would not like to go into in greater details now. But the main recommendation is that we should have additional permanent staff there, especially when the workload has increased. They have already made a proposal for creating certain permanent posts in that office which are under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: My second question is about certain complaints of corruption. Has Government's attention been drawn to those obtaining passports. The greater the delay the greater the demand is for the bribes by the offic s concerned. Is it true?. Then, you mentioned about long-term measures. Can you give us any idea as to what are those long-term measures? And, whether they have started implementing those

measures in that office. And, Sir, he has forgotten to give the names of the officers who were sent to Ahmedabad.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: As I said, it is already under the consideration of the Government. We shall implement them as early as possible. It will be difficult to give any time limit. As regards corruption, there has been a mention in certain newspaper about this. We have not received any complaints regarding this specifically. No specific complaint has been forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs. Only an anonymous complaint has been sent to that ministry. If the hon. Member has any case in view, he can pass it on to us.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will you not, on your own make an enquiry?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: We shall certainly do that. We are doing everything possible. The main cause of corruption is the delay. You were referring to delay in the issue of passports. We can expedite the cases as much as possible. But, there is no specific case of corruption

SHRI N K. SANGHI: Sir, the delay in the issue of passport is as difficult as getting an industrial licence Would the Ministry devise some ways and methods by which the applicant can come to know in how much time his application is going to be processed? Can you devise some sort of procedure so that a postcard be sent to him intimating the period in which his passport would be ready? If there are any difficulties to be rectified some intimation be sent to him and a time fixed for the issue of passport.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I agree with the hon. Member that there should not be too much of delay in the issuance of passports. The applicant has to fill certain forms and the particulars entered in those forms have to be verified by the passport officer. Some applicants do not fill in their forms properly thus resulting in delay.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: The hon Minister just now mentioned that a team of senior officers inspected the passport office at Ahmedabad and at that time 10,000 applications were pending which have now since been cleared and the pending number is 1,500. I would like to know what were the reasons for such inordinate delay. Has this team of senior officers mentioned about it in their report and what action has been taken against the concerned authorities for not disposing of the 10,000 applications in time?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH The number of applications during 1970 and 1971 remained more or less the same but the increase came in 1972 when the number jumped to 18,000 At that time we had to give thought to this matter. As the workload increased suddenly we were not able to appoint additional staff immediately. That is why the work piled up. Now, it has been taken care of and more people have been appointed

औद्योगिक श्रमिकों की मजदूरी और जीवन निर्वाह व्यय में वृद्धि की प्रतिशतता

*551. श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :
श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) वर्ष 1961 की तुलना में आज तक औद्योगिक श्रमिकों की मजूरी में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है तथा इसी अवधि में जीवन निर्वाह व्यय में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है, और

(ख) इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए औद्योगिक श्रमिकों के जीवन निर्वाह व्यय

के अनुरूप मजूरी मिले सरकार ने क्या विशेष कदम उठाए है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मन्त्री (श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) एक विवरण जिसमे अपेक्षित सूचना दी गई है सदन की मेज पर रखा गया है।

(ख) परिवर्ती महगाई भत्ते की योजनाए लगभग सभी खान-खान उद्योगो मे लागू हैं। इनमे यह व्यवस्था है कि उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचांको मे होने वाली वृद्धि के आधार पर महगाई भत्ते मे समय समय पर वृद्धि की जाती है।

विवरण

वर्ष	श्रमिक वर्ग के लिए अखिल भारत उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (आधार 1961-100 पर बदला गया)	निम्नलिखित के धन की कमाई के सूचकांक (आधार 1961-100)		वास्तविक कमाई के सूचकांक (आधार 1961-100)	
		कारखाना श्रमिक		कारखाना श्रमिक	
1962	103	106		103	
1963	106	109		103	
1964	121	114		94	
1965	131	128		97	
1966	146	139		95	
1967	166	151		91	
1968	171	160		94	
1969	169	170(म०)		101	
1970	178	180		101	
1971	183	187*		102*	

* अनन्तिम (म०) —संशोधित

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा जो सवाल था उसमें यदि मंत्री महोदय ठीक से पढ़े होते तो उसमें यह था :

"the percentage increase in the wages of industrial workers upto date .."

और इन्होंने विवरण रखा है वह केवल 1971 तक का है। 1972, 1973 में जितना अन्तर आया है, विशेषकर एक साल 1973 में कि 1971 तक की फीगर्स देने का कोई मतलब ही नहीं है। इसलिए मंत्री महोदय कम से कम यह बताएं कि आज कास्ट आफ लिविंग इन्डेक्स नम्बर क्या है और उनकी रीयल अर्निंग्ज क्या है तभी हम कोई सवाल करें।

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा आपने जो अभी 1972-73 और 1974 के बारे में कहा है तो जहां तक कंज्यूमर प्राइस इंडेक्स का सवाल है उसकी फीगर्स मैं आपको दे सकता हूं लेकिन अभी मनी अर्निंग्ज और रीयल अर्निंग्ज के बारे में सूचना नहीं मिली है क्योंकि यह सूचना राज्य सरकारों से आती है और राज्य सरकारों से अभी वह प्राप्त नहीं हो सकी है।

जहां तक कंज्यूमर्स प्राइस इंडेक्स की बात है, मैं आपको बता रहा हूं

1972	202
1973	236

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी आज तो हम 1974 में हैं।

श्री बालगोविन्द वर्मा : 1974 तो अभी चल रहा है इसलिए उसकी फीगर्स तैयार होने का प्रश्न नहीं है। यदि आप चाहें तो 1974 के महीनों की फीगर्स में आपको दे सकता हूं

जनवरी, 1974	264
फरवरी, 1974	267
मार्च, 1974	275
अप्रैल, 1974	283
मई 1974	294
जून, 1974	301

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : मैंने जो सवाल किया था उसमें अपटूडेट फीगर्स मांगी थी तो कम से कम मंत्री महोदय अगस्त, 1974 तक की फीगर्स दे ही देते। अभी पूछने के बाद उन्होंने फीगर्स दी है तो यह फीगर्स उनके पास होने के बावजूद भी 1971 तक के आंकड़े ही देना अपने को धोखा देना है और दूसरों को धोखा देना है।

मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि लगातार कास्टआफ लिविंग इन्डेक्स बढ़ता जा रहा है और ऐसी स्थिति में पैसे का मूल्य भी घिसता जा रहा है यदि प्रत्यक्ष रूप में उनकी जेब में सौ रुपए हों तो उनका मूल्य बराबर घिसता जा रहा है जैसे कि रुपया का मूल्य 28 पैसे तक आ गया है तो उनकी जेब में कितना पैसा है, मूल्य बढ़ने के बाद आज की स्थिति में उतना ही असली वेतन मिल जाए दृष्टि से आप कौन से कदम ले रहे हैं ?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : डीयरियेबल डीयर्नेस फार्मूला बहुत से उद्योगों में लागू है, जैसे जैसे कास्ट आफ लिविंग इन्डेक्स बढ़ता जाता है आटोमेटिकली डी० ए० बढ़ता जाता है इसलिए यह कहना कि उनको किसी तरह का नुकसान होता है, ऐसी बात नहीं है। उनको उसी अनुपात में बाजार से सामान की प्राप्ति होती रहती है।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी जब लगातार महंगाई बढ़ती जा रही है, असली वेतन में कटौती होती जा रही है, ऐसी स्थिति में डीयर्नेस एलाउन्स और बढ़ते हुए वेतन की कम्पलसरी डिपाजिट में ले लेना कहां तक उचित है इन दोनों बातों का मेल आप कैसे बिठा सकते हैं ?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : यह सवाल जो आपने किया है, अच्छा होता यदि आप यह सवाल फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री से करते लेकिन फिर भी मैं

इसका उत्तर दे रहा हूं। जब किसी चीज की बढ़ती हो जाती है तो उसके जो दाम हैं वह गिर जाते हैं। इस प्रकार से मनी का सर्कुलेशन ज्यादा हुआ है डेवलपमेंट कार्यों के कारण इस बात को आप भी मानते हैं– इसीलिए मनी वैल्यू भी गिरी है जोकि आज सभी को परेशान कर रही है। तो गवर्नमेन्ट प्रयत्न कर रही है कि सर्कुलेशन आफ मनी को कम से कम करे और जिस आर्डिनेन्स का जिक्र आप कर रहे हैं वह इसी अभिप्राय से निकाला गया है कि रुपए की वैल्यू बढ़े और इसका जो सबसे ज्यादा लाभ होगा वह वर्कर्स को होगा। इसलिए इसमें कोई संशय की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए, गवर्नमेन्ट ने इनके लाभ के लिए यह कदम उठाया है।

SHRI VASANT SATHE: May I know whether the method of preparing the cost of living index is and has been found to be faulty by even experts, economists and the authorities concerned, as has been discussed in this House already? The weightage given to the items in the basket is out of date and, therefore, the whole index does not really reflect the real rise in the cost of living of the working class. What measures are being taken to correct this method of preparing the cost of living index because this does not reflect the correct rise in the cost of living?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The methodology followed in preparing the consumer price index is the international one. It is not that we are following something which is our own. This is the method followed all over the world. Sometimes the prices go up, sometimes they come down and that is why it is agitating the minds of workers. For example, in January —March generally, prices begin to fall.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Has he understood the question?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I am coming to his point. He feels that this method is defective.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not talking about the international method. I say the method and the manner in which it is adopted in our country in choosing the items in the basket is defective. That is why you do not get the correct rise in the index. Do you know that?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I do not agree with the hon. member, because generally we try to collect these prices of articles from such centres where a large number of workers reside.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the weightage given? He tells me that I do not know. All right. What is the weightage given to various items?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe, when you sit here, you do not permit talking like this. How will you be able to control it when you are in the Chair?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: From there I will give protection. Here I seek your protection.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: What are the items in the basket? That will show whether the articles are relevant or irrelevant. Let him say it straight.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: We have taken 50 centres all over the country for the collection of data regarding these prices. In every centre, we have selected two shops which are generally patronised by labour for the purchase of articles or things they generally use. I can give details. We have divided things into five categories: one is food, then pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants, the third is fuel and light, fourth housing, fifth cloth etc. and six miscellaneous. I you permit I will give further details.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is it not a fact that in more than one big city, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Ahmedabad the trade unions have raised this issue and proved that there

was a fraud in the manner in which the cost of living index was calculated as a result of which the workers have lost in DA, and after the revision of the cost of living index crores of rupees have been paid out to the workers to make good the losses that they had suffered May I know what steps Government are taking to see that these frauds are not repeated and also what frauds have been carried out till now and whether the Labour Ministry have taken steps to approach the Finance Ministry to see that workers should get what is due to them and not come under the plea of the so-called inflation?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Some of the unions have demanded a revision of the consumer price index. Particularly, one request has been submitted by Shri Umanath from Madras. We have looked into all these matters and have not agreed with it

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN What steps have been taken to avoid frauds being repeated? This has happened in West Bengal just a few days ago, in Ahmedabad, three or four years ago.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: If you bear with me very patiently, I would be able to explain. I am listening to you; but, you become very impatient. The West Bengal Government appointed a Committee to look into the details of consumer price index. They wanted to appoint a committee; we did not agree to that. They insisted and we allowed them. Thereafter, the committee itself was not sure of the recommendations they have made and they said that many of the data were not available to them. Although they made certain recommendations, I can say that they are not worthwhile. This is up to the West Bengal Government; we have nothing to do. They have appointed a committee and they can do anything they like. But, we did not find anything worthwhile, to go into the details of their recommendations and accept their findings.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN Why don't you investigate the whole process and see that they are not repeated?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that in determining the consumer price index, he is following the international procedure. In view of the fact that in advanced countries, food items constitute only 15—20 per cent of the total pay packet of the worker, whereas in this country, they constitute 70—80 per cent of the total pay packet of the worker, does he not feel that adoption of the international procedure means doing great injustice to the workers in this country? In view of this fact, is it not necessary to rationalise the procedure in regard to the determination of consumer price index? Secondly, from the statement we find that from 1962 to 1971 there was an increase in the consumer price index, except in between 1968-69, when has been a decrease in the consumer price index from 171 to 169. In view of our own experience which shows that actually the value of the rupee did not increase in one of these years, May I know what were the determining factors by which you came to the conclusion that between 1968 and 1969, the consumer price index came down?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA Hon. Member has made certain querries, I can tell him that certainly we are following the international practice, in the field of preparing the consumer price index. Conditions differ from country to country. In Western countries, it is something else and in our country, it is something else. We know that the people spend a large part of their income on these cereals here. Our Labour Bureau is looking into every item and they are trying to find out various means to arrive at certain conclusions which are acceptable to the people. They are making exercises He says, sometimes the price increases and the consumer price index begins to fall. I can tell him that in some industries, particularly jute, there is a

practice to pay dearness allowance on the basis of quarterly price index

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI It was not my question When we go through the statement, we find that though the consumer price index rose during the period 1962—1971, in between 1968 and 1969, as per the statement, there has been a decrease in the consumer price index from 171 to 169, which is contradictory to our own experience May I know, under what conditions you came to the conclusion?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: We are always trying to link the consumer price index to the prevailing prices If the hon Member does not feel satisfied, he can come to me and I would be able to explain to him

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD Sir, while accepting the generality and the principles of assessing the consumer price index, may I request the hon Minister to come from the international plane to the domestic plane and tell us, in the light of rising prices and decline in the value of money do these different heads and different standards set-up not need a change? I would also like to know is it a fact that the Supreme Court has given a ruling that the present process of determining consumer price index is faulty? If that be so, how do the Government propose to meet that ruling and to change the different heads of articles and other things as well as the centres that they have chosen?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: So far as the Supreme Court ruling is concerned, the Labour Bureau at Simla is looking into the matter

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Should we ask the Simla Institute for the answer? We want to know from the Government

MR. SPEAKER. After the Supreme Court ruling, what steps have been taken by the Government to meet it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): This is a very complicated procedure to select places and also to make a departure from the established procedure.

MR SPEAKER The question is, what have you done after the Supreme Court ruling?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The Labour Bureau which is the technical body, is trying to evolve new procedures and is examining them

MR SPEAKER So, you are seriously examining them

श्री मधु लिमये अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि 11 साल पहले इंडेक्स चोरी को लेकर बम्बई में जो बड़ी हड़ताल हुई थी, उस के चलते लाकडावाला कमेटी बैठी थी और उसने साढ़े आठ रुपये महंगाई भत्ता बढ़ाया था। क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि पश्चिम बंगाल में जो एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बैठी थी, उसने जो सुझाव दिया है, उस के अनुसार महंगाई भत्ता 50 से ले कर 54 रुपये बढ़ाने की बात कही गई है? तो क्या इस सुझाव को मद्दे नजर रखते हुए, मंत्री महोदय आल इन्डिया प्राइस इन्डेक्स को सुधारने का प्रयास करेंगे?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि जहां तक वेस्ट बंगाल की बात है, वहां सरकार ने यह कमेटी बिठाई थी और हम उस से सहमत नहीं थे लेकिन क्योंकि उन्होंने जिद की थी, इसलिए हमने उन को इस की आज्ञा दे दी। उस कमेटी की जो फाइंडिंग्स है, उनको मैं कोट कर सकता हूं और कमेटी ने खुद यह कहा है कि ये जो फाइंडिंग्स वे दे रहे हैं, इन के बारे में वे खुद संतुष्ट नहीं हैं क्योंकि जो डेटा था वह पूरा उन को नहीं मिला और यह केवल उन का एसेसमेंट है। इसलिए हम इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं कह सकते यह पश्चिम बंगाल गवर्नमेंट देख रही है और वह उन की जिम्मेदारी है, वह चाहे जो

श्री मधु लिमये : जब विभिन्न कमेटियां और सुप्रीम कोर्ट यह निर्णय दे रहे हैं कि इस में घपला है, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय यह आवश्यक नहीं समझते हैं कि आल इंडिया प्राइस इन्डेक्स को सुधारा जाए ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I have said, we are already looking into the matter.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Supreme Court ruling came in 1966 and you are still look niginto it.

श्री मधु लिमये : अगर रेड्डी साहब की तबियत ठीक नहीं है, तो उन को सदन में नहीं आना चाहिए और अगर वे सदन में आए हैं, तो प्रश्नों का जवाब उनको देना चाहिए । एक सीधा सा प्रश्न है कि आल इण्डिया प्राइस इंडेक्स को सुधारा जाएगा या नहीं । 'येस' या 'नो' में जवाब दे दें । क्या इस पर भी कीज लगाया है ।

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The West Bengal Government in their wisdom appointed a committee to go into the question of consumer price index, on the representations made by various trade union organisations. The committee had submitted a report. The West Bengal Government is seized of the matter and I do not want to make any comments on the nature of the decision that the West Bengal Government may or not take.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने पश्चिम बंगाल कमेटी का केवल उदाहरण दिया था । मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या आल इंण्डिया प्राइस इंडेक्स को सुधारा जाएगा ?

MR. SPEAKER: I gave another chance. After all, I have given so much time to this question.

श्री मधु लिमये : सारा समय इन लोगों ने बर्बाद किया है । प्रश्न सीधा है । अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत ही निकम्मे मिनिस्टर है, इनको तत्काल हटाया जाए । (व्यवधान)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: A question has been asked in this House about the serious erosion in the matter of dearness allowance because of the faulty and fraudulent cost of living index arrived at by the department and it has been proved in Maharashtra and also by the Supreme Court judgment

MR SPEAKER Ask the question

SHRI S. M BANERJEE May we know whether he is aware that erosion to the tune of Rs. 600 to 700 crores during the last ten years has taken place in the matter of dearness allowance of the employees in the public sector, departmental undertakings and also private sector? In view of the fact that this has been raised by the various State Governments and some trade unions, will a committee be appointed to investigate into the whole matter and submit a report within six months?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA. It is a fact that the wages have been eroded due to the increase in prices. We are aware of it. That is why, as the hon Member himself knows, we have adopted the variable dearness allowance linked to the cost of living index The moment the wages erode, immediately the dearness allowance increases

हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड उदयपुर में उत्पादन

*552. श्री लालजी भाई : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड, उदयपुर, राजस्थान में वर्ष 1972-73 और 1973-74 में उत्पादन अनुमानित लक्ष्य से कम हुआ ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में क्या उपचारात्मक कार्यवाही की गई है, की जा रही है और की जाएगी ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The following were the reasons for the shortfall in production vis-a vis target:—

1972-73.

Production in the mines was less on account of water shortage initially in November-December, 1972 and later during January—March, 1973 due to power restrictions The concentrate production was also affected due to low metal content in the ore

Production in the Smelter was affected on account of acute power shortage. The melting furnace completely broke down in February, 1973 and affected zinc metal production Superphosphate production was restricted owing to considerably reduced demand caused by drought in the areas in which fertilizer was being sold

1973-74

Production from mines and beneficiation plants was seriously affected on account of power restriction in April/May, 1973. (Power cut to the extent of 20 per cent was imposed from 6th February, 1973, 33-1/3 per cent from 26th February, and 50 per cent from 20th March, 1973 till June, 1973)

Targetted production in the Zinc Smelter could not be achieved on account of power restriction/interruption. In fact the plant was completely "Off the steam" for nearly 3 months from April—June, 1973 for want of power. Production in the Lead Smelter was less on account of shortage of concentrate due to disruption of rail traffic and due to power interruptions/restrictions.

श्री लालजी भाई : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लि० उदयपुर में सन् 1972-73 और 1973-74 में उत्पादन कम होने के बारे में मैंने जो प्रश्न पूछा था, उसमें पानी की कमी, विद्युत् के प्रयोग में रुकावट और रेल परिवहन, इन तीन मुद्दों को बताया है कि इनमें इस तरह की अड़चनें पड़ी हैं जिससे उत्पादन क्षमता के अनुसार कच्चा माल पर्याप्त मात्रा में प्राप्त नहीं हो पाया है। देवारी बांध का एक चरण पूरा हो गया है और दूसरा चरण पूरा करने पर पानी की पूर्ति हो सकती है। आप ने बिजली की कमी के बारे में भी बताया और रेल परिवहन में जो रुकावट पड़ी उसके बारे में भी कहा। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन तीनों मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए क्या सरकार के सामने कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है जिससे कच्चा माल पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध हो।

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद : प्रोडक्शन के रास्ते में रुकावटों का जवाब तो मैंने मूल उत्तर में दे ही दिया है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि 1972-73 और 1973-74 इन दोनों सालों में जिंक स्मैलटर से प्रोडक्शन के रास्ते में बड़ी दिक्कतें आईं जैसे पानी की कमी, बिजली की कमी, रेलवे स्ट्राइक की वजह से ढुलाई वगैरह की बाधा। इन सब की वजह से जिंक के उत्पादन में बहुत बाधा पड़ी।

इस वक्त बिजली की सप्लाई अच्छी हो गई है, पानी की पोजिशन भी अच्छी है और रेलवे स्ट्राइक भी नहीं है और हमें पूरी आशा है कि 1974-75 में हमारा जो टारगेट है उसको हम अचीव कर लेंगे।

श्री लालजी भाई कच्चे माल का जहां तक प्रश्न है सवाई माधोपुर में जस्ते से एक कारखाना लगाया जा रहा है जबकि उदयपुर में कच्चा माल बहुत मिलता है और वहां से सवाई माधोपुर तक इसकी ढुलाई में करोड़ों रुपया प्रति वर्ष खर्च होगा। सवाई माधोपुर में जहां यह कारखाना लगाया जा रहा है वहां उसके लिए एक करोड़ रुपया रखा गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि चूंकि उदयपुर में कच्चा माल मिलता है और दूसरी सुविधायें भी है, क्या सवाई माधोपुर के बजाय यह कारखाना वहां ही लगाया जाय, क्या यह ज्यादा उचित नहीं होगा? क्या इसके बारे में सरकार विचार कर रही है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री के० डी० मालवीय) : उदयपुर और सवाई माधोपुर में आपस में जो स्पर्धा हो गई है इस समय इस मसले को लेकर सरकार उस पर गौर कर रही है और इस पर कोई राय इस समय हम नहीं दे सकते हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि वहां के मुख्य मंत्री से सलाह मश्विरा करके इस झगड़े को तय कर दिया जाये। वहां चूंकि इस मामले में लोगों में मतभेद है इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि जो भी कदम हम उठायें इसी दृष्टिकोण से उठाए ताकि उत्पादन में हमें सहायता मिल सके और अधिक उत्पादन हो सके। पानी की, बिजली की तथा दूसरी चीजों की उपलब्धि को भी देखना होगा। बड़ा स्पीकर यह जो है यह सवाई माधोपुर में जायज है या नहीं है इस पर कोई विचार सरकार ने अभी तक नहीं बनाया है।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि पानी और बिजली की कमी के कारण उत्पादन में कमी हुई है। पानी और बिजली की भविष्य में कमी महसूस न हो और इनकी उपलब्धि निर्विघ्न होती रहे इसके लिए आप कौन सा कदम उठा रहे हैं? क्या पानी और बिजली का आप स्वयं प्रबन्ध करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : राजस्थान सरकार के साथ बातचीत हो रही है। हम चाहते हैं कि बिजली का प्रबन्ध हम स्वयं कर लें। हम उनसे सलाह मुश्विरा करके बिजली का इंतजाम तो स्वयं करना चाहते हैं लेकिन पानी का इंतजाम तो उन्हीं को करना होगा।

श्री मूल चन्द डागा न वहां पानी की और न ही बिजली की कमी है। वहां कमी है तो व्यवस्था की है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या किसी अफसर का आपने खींचा है इतने मामलों में और किसी को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है? वास्तव में वहां के जो प्रबन्धक हैं वही दोषी हैं। उनमें ही कमी है।

श्री सुख देव प्रसाद : जहां तक . . .

MR. SPEAKER He has invited your attention to the inefficiency of the staff You just note it down.

Production of Filament Lamp by H.M.T.

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*554. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Machine Tools is entering the filament lamp line in a big way; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines regarding its plan and necessary letters of intents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd have plans to set up production of GLS Lamps and Filaments in their unit at Hyderabad alongwith glass-components, load-in-wire, caps and tungsten wire and lamp-making machinery. The programme is to achieve a production of 32 million GLS Lamps by the sixth year Necessary letter of intent has been issued to the Company Investment decision is still to be taken by the Government.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: May I know from the hon. Minister when they are going to have these plans for production implemented, secondly, whether this target of 32 million GLS lamps will be sufficient to meet the demands in the country, and, thirdly, whether the Ministry has any plan to have the same unit opened at other places like Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI): I expect the foundation of this factory for production to be laid some time this November and the actual production to start within three years. This project is for making plants for making bulbs. But along with that, 32 million bulbs will be made because we would like to see, when we sell these plants, we also transfer the technology to the buyers Ultimately, there will be eight chains, may be every year, through these plants and I suppose that the full requirements of the Sixth Five-Year Plan will be met out of the plants that the HMT will be making in the matter of producing bulbs.

SHRI D B CHANDRA GOWDA: What about Bangalore?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The bulbs will be sold all over, including Bangalore

SHRI D. B CHANDRA GOWDA: What about the last part of my question, whether there are any plans to set up a manufacturing unit in Bangalore?

SHRI T. A PAI: HMT's production of bulbs as a part of the production of machinery will be confined to Hyderabad. Any individual entrepreneur at Bangalore is welcome to buy the machinery and set up another independent unit at Bangalore.

SHRI D B CHANDRA GOWDA: May I know whether certain exercises have been made to have these filment lamps exported and if so, what is the foreign exchange that is expected to be earned from this?

SHRI T. A PAI: At present 140 million bulbs are made in the country and the anticipated units that are coming into existence as a result of clearance of capital goods, are expected to make another 75 million bulbs Therefore immediately during the Fifth Five-Year Plan we will be making about 300 million bulbs, and I do not think we will have any surplus bulbs for export.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in Employment Capacities in States

*552. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased its employment capacities in certain States;

(b) if so, the increase in the employment percentage in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Punjab, Manipur, Agartala, U.P., Kerala, Mysore, Goa, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra in 1972, 1973 and 1974; and

(c) the percentage of unemployment in the above-mentioned States for the same period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Government have taking all possible steps to increase employment opportunities. Apart from the normal development programmes, a number of special employment promotion schemes have been taken up in recent years viz (i) Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (ii) Programme for educated Unemployed, (iii) Special Employment Programme and (iv) Half-a-Million Job Programme.

(b) Information regarding the percentage increase in employment in the organised sector in the States concerned is given in Statement I, laid on the Table of House [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8339/74]. This is based on the statistics collected through the Employment Exchanges.

(c) Information about the number of applicants on the live register of Employment Exchanges in the States concerned is given in Statement II laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8339/74].

Expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant

*555. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expand the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor and the salient features thereof; and

(c) the other existing steel plants proposed to be expanded and their names?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). It was decided as early as March, 1970, to take up expansion of the capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant to four million ingot tonnes in continuation of the first stage of 1.7 million ingot tonnes. The work was accordingly taken in hand and a sum of Rs. 125 crores has been spent on this expansion during the Fourth Plan period. The total cost of expansion is tentatively estimated to be Rs 513 crores, but this estimate may undergo some change after the Detailed Project Report has been fully updated by MECON.

The coordinated construction schedule of Bokaro for expansion to four million ingot tonnes, finalised last year, envisages completion of construction and erection work by December, 1976, and commissioning by March, 1977.

It has been decided to further expand this capacity to 4.75 million ingot tonnes. Both these schemes for

expansion are being implemented with Soviet cooperation and assistance.

(c) The Bhilai Steel Plant is proposed to be expanded from 2.5 to 4 million tonnes ingot steel per annum.

Mineral Development

*556. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided not to provide any assistance to States for mineral development; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Blended Pelletisation Plants on Karnataka Coast

*557 SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start blended pelletisation plants on Karnataka coast where low grade coastal ore could be blended with high grade Hospet ore for export; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Besides a proposal for the setting up of a Pelletisation Plant to utilise low grade ores of coastal regions of Karnataka State, there is no other proposal under consideration.

तैयार इस्पात की आवश्यकता

558. **श्री मूल चन्द डागा:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भारत को कितने तैयार इस्पात की आवश्यकता है और देश मे कितना उत्पादन हो रहा है;

(ख) वर्ष 1972-73 और वर्ष 1973-74 मे भारत को कितना इस्पात किन देशो मे आयात करना पडा और इसके लिये भारत को कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा देनी पडी, और

(ग) देश इस्पात के मामले मे कब तक आत्मनिर्भर हो जायेगा ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री के० डी० मालवीय) : (क) से (ग). अनुमान है कि वर्ष 1974-75 से तैयार इस्पात की कुल माग लगभग 72 लाख टन और देशीय उपलब्धि लगभग 50 लाख टन होगी। माग और देशीय उपलब्धि के अन्तर को आयात द्वारा पूरा करने का विचार है। वर्ष 1972-73 और 1973-74 (अप्रैल-दिसम्बर) की अवधि मे लोहे और इस्पात का देशवार आयात निम्नलिखित सारणी में दिया गया है —

वर्ष 72–1973 और 1973–74 (अप्रैल-दिसम्बर) की अवधि में लोहे और इस्पात का देशवार आयात

क–मात्रा टन

देश	1972–73	1973–74 अप्रैल-दिसम्बर
बेल्जियम	56,492	50,976
चेकोस्लोवाकिया	16,696	14,682
फ्रांस	20,669	12,906
जर्मन संघीय गणराज्य	1,27,393	71,045
जर्मन जनवादी गणराज्य	10,474	9,351
जापान	3,73,582	3,03,538
पोलैण्ड	36,273	18,143
यू० के०	2,67,061	85,050
अमरीका	32 162	27,765
रूस	40,167	24,360
अन्य देश	2.56,112	1,08 879
जोड़	12.37,083	7.26,695
ख–मूल्य (हजार रुपए)		
बेल्जियम	8,46,67	10,54 34
चेकोस्लोवाकिया	3,34,84	3,45,81
फ्रांस	4.84.71	4,12.76
जर्मन संघीय गणराज्य	25,99,60	20,56,86
जर्मन जनवादी गणराज्य	2,01 31	1,58,78
जापान	62,76,93	64 45,63
पोलैण्ड	4,58.55	3 87 05
यू० के०	52 60,30	20 91,42
अमरीका	7 12,99	5,78,22
रूस	8,25,17	6,96.48
अन्य देश	40,09,57	22,25,90
जोड़	2,20.10.64	1.64.82,25

पांचवीं योजना में इस्पात विकास कार्यक्रम इस ढंग से बनाया गया है कि पांचवीं योजना अवधि के अन्त तक साधारण इस्पात के मामले मे देश आत्मनिर्भर हो जाये। फिर भी. कुछ श्रेणियों में उत्पादन आवश्यकता से अधिक होगा और कुछ अन्य श्रेणियों में उत्पादन कम होगा जिसका अर्थ यह है कि आयात किया जाता रहेगा।

Charging of Capitation Fees/Donations from Students by Medical Colleges

*559. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the medical colleges in the country which take capitation fees or donations from their students;

(b) what is the extent in each case of this capitation fee or donation; and

(c) what attempts are being made to do away with this disgraceful practice?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The private medical colleges charging capitation fees/donations fall into two categories. Those medical colleges whose degree is recognised by the Medical Council of India and others whose degree is not yet recognised by the Medical Council of India. The colleges in the first category are—

1. Kakatiya Medical College, Warrangal.
2. Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada.
3. Kasturba Medical College, Manipal.
4. Medical College, Gulbarga.
5. J.L.N. Medical College, Belgaum.
6. J.L.M. Medical College, Davangere.
7. M.G.M. Medical College, Jamshedpur.

The colleges in the second category are—

1. Nalanda Medical College, Patna.
2. Pataliputra Medical College, Patna.
3. Shri Krishna Medical College, Muzaffarpur.
4. Magadh Medical College, Gaya.
5. Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot.

(b) The amount of capitation fee or donation varies considerably from college to college. From the information available with us the range is between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 25.000. Higher capitation fee is charged from overseas students.

(c) The question of introducing legislation to regulate the functioning of private colleges is under active consideration.

Chinese Naval activities in Indian Ocean

*560. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in a local English Daily regarding 'Chinese Naval activities in Indian Ocean increase';

(b) whether China's warships and submarines have started appearing in the Ocean more frequently; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any such increase in the frequency of visits of Chinese naval vessels in the Indian Ocean.

(c) Does not arise.

Charter of Demands submitted by the Federation of Junior Doctors Association of Delhi

*561. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into consideration the charter of demands submitted recently by the Federation of Junior Doctors' Association of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The Government have not received any Charter of Demands recently from the Federation of Junior Doctors Association of Delhi.

(b) Does not arise

Grand Smithy Works Private Ltd.

*562. SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Grand Smithy Works Private Ltd. has been a regular buyer of iron and scrap materials from the Hindustan Steel Ltd., Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the salient features of sales made to the said company since its first purchase of iron and scraps and other items from H.S.L., Calcutta or directly from any of the steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the period March—July 1973, the Sales Office of Hindustan Steel Limited booked orders for a total of 50,000 tonnes of Ingot Mould Scrap from a number of parties of whom Grand Smithy Works Private Limited is one The quantity intended for them was 27,000 tonnes. However, supplies, against this order have been made to the extent of only 8,200 tonnes upto December, 1973 and no further despatches have been effected thereafter This is the only sale of scrap by the Sales Office of H S L. to the party in the last five years. Information relating to Sales by the Sales Office prior to this period and direct sales from the Plants of H.S.L. is not readily available.

Nine Nations Plan on Territorial Seas

*563 SHRI P M. MEHTA:

SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. had turned down nine Nations Plan on territorial seas,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposal was also favoured by India; and

(d) whether any compromise proposal was put forward by the Sea Conference in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India has co-sponsored the Nine Nations proposal.

(d) No compromise proposal has yet been put forward on the subjects covered by the Nine Nations proposal, although separate proposals on these subjects have been submitted by several delegations.

Stainless Steel Sheets Produced in Durgapur Alloy Steel Plants

*564. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indecision over price and distribution policy of certain categories of stainless steel sheets produced in the Durgapur Alloy Steel Plants have resulted in fall in production as well as uncertainty to the customers about the availability of the materials for over nine months; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Suggestions from Workers of Durgapur Steel Plants

*565. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some labour leaders representing workers of Durgapur Steel Plant met the Prime Minister and placed before her their suggestions for improving production of the plant which is the sick child of the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the labour leaders have sought a change in the 3-tier administrative system in the management of the plant; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines of suggestions that the workers representatives have given to end inter-union and intra-union rivalries and also to boost production of the plant and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c). Shri G Ramanujam, General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress met the Prime Minister on the 5th August, 1974. During the discussion, he generally referred to the problems of the Durgapur Steel Plant. He did not submit any written suggestions.

आपात रोगियों को देखने जाने के लिए डाक्टरों को परिवहन सुविधा

*566. **श्री महा दीपक सिंह शाक्य :** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आपात रोगियों को देखने जाने के लिए अनेक ग्रामीण अस्पतालों मे डाक्टरों को परिवहन साधन उपलब्ध नहीं है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या इसके लिए सरकार के पास निश्चित योजना है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री (डा० कर्ण सिंह): (क) से (ग) . प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में से अधिकांश को या तो यूनिसेफ सहायता के रूप मे या परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत गाड़ियां दी गई हैं। ज्योंही शेष केन्द्र यूनिसेफ द्वारा निर्धारित मानदण्डों को पूरा कर लेंगे, वे भी गाड़ियां पाने के हकदार हो जाएंगे ।

Alleged irregularities and lapses in IISCO

*567. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaints about irregularities and lapses in IISCO; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

*568. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is making efforts to ensure that the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi break even during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the target for each month, to enable correct evaluation of performance?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8340/74].

Discussion between India and Indonesia for Cultural Exchange

3880. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discussion between the Governments of India and Indonesia recently on cultural exchange between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the concrete programmes chalked for the year 1974-75?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the 5th annual Indo-Indonesia Bilateral Talks held at Jakarta in early August 1974, a number of suggestions for promoting cultural exchanges were considered. The Indonesian side stated that as far as they were concerned, they did not work on the basis of annual programmes but on that of concrete programmes.

Decline in Production of Saleable Steel

3881. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of saleable steel went down in 1973-74;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to reach the target; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Yes,

Sir. The aggregate production of saleable steel from the five major steel plants in 1973-74 was 4.353 million tonnes as against the production of 4.793 million tonnes in 1972-73.

(b) The production in 1973-74 was affected adversely mainly on account of:—

(i) Severe power cuts and power interruption, especially in the period April to mid-November. 1973, directly affecting production in all the plants except Bhilai.

(ii) Inadequate availability of coal, again largely due to power cuts and power interruptions during this period which effected the entire Jharia Coal-fields and led to curtailment in the operation of coal washeries and of coal mines which, in turn, affected steel production in all the plants.

(iii) Intermittent slow down and industrial unrest in Railways, especially in the South Eastern and Eastern Railways, in August, 1973 and thereafter from late November, 1973 onwards, affecting movement of coal and other raw materials and of finished products and necessitating the imposition of drastic cuts on production in keeping with the minimal flow of raw materials.

(c) and (d). The targets of production for 1974-75 which envisage higher production than that achieved in 1973-74 have been drawn up in consultation with all the appropriate agencies after making an assessment of the requirements and possible supply and availability of power, other essential inputs, rail transport etc. Close and constant liaison is being maintained with these agencies to ensure that production does not suffer on account of shortage in the supply or availability of these requirements.

Japanese Firm to Mine Coal

3882. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed a Japanese firm to mine coal at Telchar in Orissa using a new technology of production;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether similar technology is to be employed in other coal mines also; and

(d) if so, whether Government intend to buy this technology for use all over India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Big Power Pressure in Indian Ocean Sought by Pakistan

3883. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is seeking Big-Power presence in the Indian Ocean as a balancing factor against other States in the region; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government have seen a press commentary on a Pakistani official spokesman's statement to this effect.

(b) Such a move would contradict the U.N. Resolution declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, to which India and the overwhelming majority of the littoral States have subscribed.

Contracts for Construction of Buildings, Roads, Aerodromes for Defence Services

3884. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contractors who have been given contracts by the Government for construction of buildings, roads, aerodromes for the Defence Services with contracts exceedings Rs. 10 lakhs during the period 1971 to 30th June, 1974.

(b) the amount involved in each case; and

(c) whether the work in each case has been completed in time and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Polio Vaccine

3885. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of funds to import monkeys, the production of polio vaccine has severely hampered; and

(b) if so, the extent of the shortfall in production and the steps being taken to tackle the problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) No, Sir. The shortfall is mainly because of technological difficulties, occasional power failure etc.

(b) As against the installed annual capacity of 12.50 lakhs doses of trivalent vaccine, the actual production during 1972-73 and 1973-74 was 1,72,500 and 19,350 doses respectively.

Studies are in progress to determine and eliminate the factors responsible for the shortfall in production.

Steel Production Target during Fifth Plan

3886. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the target fixed for the production of steel during the Fifth Plan period and the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): The steel development programme in the Fifth Five Year Plan has been drawn up in such a manner that about 10 million tonnes of saleable mild steel would be available by 1978-79 to meet the domestic demand. The existing integrated steel plants have a total capacity of 8.9 million ingot tonnes of steel equivalent to 6.5 million tonnes of finished steel per annum. The increased demand for steel by 1978-79 is proposed to be met through the expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant from its present capacity of 2.5 million ingot tonnes to about 4 million ingot tonnes and by the expansion of Bokaro on a continuing basis to a capacity of 4.75 million ingot tonnes. Thereby, an additional ingot capacity of 6.25 million tonnes, equivalent to 5.4 million tonnes of steel would become available. Taking into account the production build-up at Bhilai and Bokaro after the commissioning of the expansion schemes and the capacity utilization possible in the other integrated plants, it is estimated that finished steel available by 1978-79 from integrated steel plants would be about 8.8

million tonnes. The electric arc furnace units are expected to contribute to the availability of at least a million tonnes of bars and rods by the end of the Fifth Plan period. Thus, the total overall indigenous availability of mild steel by 1978-79 would be about 9.8 million tonnes, which would more or less meet the estimated domestic demand.

Import of Spare Parts for Steel Plants

3887. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing spare parts required for the Steel plants; and

(b) if so, the percentage thereof in the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Follow Up Action to Improve Relations with Iran

3888. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any follow-up action with a view to improving relations with Iran after the visits to that country of the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main proposals under consideration relate to development of iron ore mines in India and setting up of a pelletisation plant along with allied power and port facilities; setting up of an alumina Project in India for export to Iran; establishment of a joint Indo-Iranian Shipping line, and development of industrial capacities in India for exports to Iran. Preliminary discussions with the Iran authorities have taken place in July regarding the alumina project, and further discussions are envisaged shortly regarding this project, the iron ore project, increasing of industrial capacities and the joint shipping line Requests have been received from Iranian authorities for recruitment of medical doctors, veterinary surgeons, handicraft, tea and fisheries exports, which are being processed Ten mechanised fishing boats and crew have been sent to Iran for demonstration and training purposes. A long term trade agreement is being negotiated, and commercial contracts are being discussed for exports of various commodities and manufactured items.

Increase in Tractor Prices

3889 SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:
DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to increase the selling price of tractors;

(b) the order of the increase;

(c) whether the Food and Agriculture Ministry was consulted; and

(d) the reasons for sanctioning the increase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The tractor manufacturers have w.e.f. 10-6-1974 been allowed increases in selling price ranging from Rs. 1,515 to Rs. 8,110 per tractor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The above increases have been allowed due to appreciable rise in the cost of raw materials, components and over-head charges.

Postponement of Visit to India by U.S Secretary of State

8890. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE,
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the visit of the American Secretary of State was postponed at the instance of the U.S. Government;

(b) whether it has anything to do with the Rajasthan nuclear blast;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when will the visit materialise now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). The delay in the American Secretary of State's visit to India has nothing to do with the India's peaceful nuclear experiment, but has been due to his preoccupations in West Asia and internal developments in the United States.

(d) The visit is likely to take place in the near future. The precise dates will be announced after mutual consultations.

Employees of Coal Mines Authority

3991. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether the same benefits that are being enjoyed by N.C.D.C. Employees will be extended to the employees of the Coal Mines Authority Limited should the latter come under Wage Board to maintain parity in the Coal Industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): The benefits available to coal-mine workers in National Coal Development Corporation under the accepted recommendations of the Wage Board have already been extended to the workers in Coal Mines Authority.

Hindustan Steel Construction Works Limited Workers on Strike

3892. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 11,000 workers of Hindustan Steel Construction Works Limited went on strike on the 25th April, 1974;

(b) what were their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Out of 12.500 departmental daily rated workers of Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited, about 11,000 workers resorted to strike from 25th April, 1974, to press for acceptance of their demands by the Management. The strike was called off on 6th May, 1974.

(b) The main demands of the workers were:

(i) Need-based minimum wages and monthly wage structure with benefits of dearness allowance, provident fund, leave, medical facilities etc.

(ii) Adequate opportunities of promotion in different grades.

(c) The Management has decided to bring daily rated workers who have completed two years service to a monthly wage structure. This would give them a graded pay-scale with dearness allowance, Construction allowance, Provident Fund benefits, leave and medical facilities.

Explosives Plant in Andhra Pradesh

3893 SHRI ARVIND M PATEL:

SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a slurry explosive plant in the public sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the annual capacity of production and the estimated cost of the plant; and

(c) when the plant is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up a slurry explosives plant at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The annual capacity of the proposed plant will be 15,000 tonnes per annum. The capital cost of the plant is estimated at about Rs. 6.00 crores.

(c) The project is expected to be completed within 30 months from date of its sanction.

Sterilisation Cases in States

3894. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sterilisation cases performed during the last three years;

(b) the State which has recorded the highest average; and

(c) whether the progress made in this field is considered to be satisfactory?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA). (a):—

Year	No. of cases performed
1971-72	2,187,336
1972-73	3,121,426**
1973-74	915,204**

(b) Maharashtra.

(c) The percentage of achievement against the targets fixed for Sterilization during the last three years is as follows:—

1971-72	105·2%
1972-73	54·8%**
1973-74	40·4%**

**Figures are provisional.

Approval of Degrees by All India Medical Council

3895. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Medical Council has not given approval to some of the medical degrees given by the Central Universities in Soviet Union including the one of the famous Lumumba Friendship University;

(b) the names of other countries whose medical degrees are not recognised by India and the facts thereof; and

(c) the criteria for recognising a medical degree from abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) There is no reciprocity between Soviet Union and India in regard to mutual recognition of medical qualifications However, the following Soviet medical qualifications are recognised under the Indian Medical Act, 1956, when held by Indian nationals:—

General Physician (Moscow Medical Institute, First and Second).

General Physician (Patrice Lumumba Friendship University, Moscow).

Candidates of Medical Science (USSR) in Medicine awarded by the Institute of Therapy of the Academy of Medical Sciences of USSR.

(b) Under the provision of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Medical Council of India is authorised to negotiate a scheme of reciprocity with other countries in regard to mutual recognition of medical qualifictions. There is at present reciprocity only with the United Kingdon, Malta and Victoria (Australia).

(c) The medical qualifications, whether Indian and foreign, are recognised under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, after consultation with the Medical Council of India. The Council makes recommendation only after satisfying itself about the standard of the qualification.

Non-Deposit of E.P.F. by Jaipur Udyog Limited Cement Factory

3896 SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 9733 on the 9th May, 1974 and state:

(a) whether M/s. Jaipur Udyog Limited Cement Factory owned by Aloke Udyog group has cleared off the provident fund dues for the months of February and March, 1974;

(b) whether this company has made any further default in paying provident fund contribution; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to realise it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Employers' share of Provident Fund contributions for February and March, 1974 has not been received. Revenue Recovery proceedings have been initiated.

The Provident Fund contributions for the month of April, 1974 have been paid by cheque and the same has been sent to Bank. The Provident Fund contributions for the months of May and June have not been paid. The Regional Commissioner has issued recovery certificate on 30th July 1974 and for the month of June, 1974 assessment order has been issued on 20th August, 1974. Notices under section 14A of the Employees' Provident

Funds and Family Pension Fund Act and section 406|409 Indian Penal Code have been issued.

Blood Banks in the Capital

3897. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in an English daily dated the 27th May, 1974 that while the private blood banks in the Capital maintain high quality standard, the same is not being maintained by Government blood banks;

(b) whether no elaborate tests are held before accepting blood donation in Government hospitals and as such many donors keep their disease a secret and this may cause transfer of germs, and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to step up the quality standards in Government blood banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) Yes It may, however, be added that the standards observed in the Government Blood Banks are not in any way less than those in the Private Blood Banks.

(b) No Due care is taken to prevent transmission of most blood borne diseases except that of Australian Antigen.

(c) The tests for Australian Antigen will be instituted shortly.

Setting up Homoeopathy Colleges and Hospitals during Fifth Plan

3898. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the number of Homoeopathy Colleges and Hospitals that Government are going to set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K KISKU): Central Government does not have any plan to set up any Homoeopathy College and Hospital during the Fifth Five Year Plan, since these matters fall within the State Sector.

Service of Employees of Pre-Nationalised Coal Mines

3899 SHRI BIJOY MODAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether the total past service of all the taken over employees, prior to nationalisation of coal mines, will be treated as continuous at the time of payment of gratuity and pension which were being enjoyed by the staff in their erstwhile companies and payment would be made by CMAL/BCCL according to the amount arrived as above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

अमरीका स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिक

3900. श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय अमरीका स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिकों की संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ख) 1973–74 के वित्तीय वर्ष में उनके वेतन तथा भत्तों पर कितनी भारतीय तथा विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय हुई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) :

(क) (i) भारतीय नागरिक—107
(ii) विदेशी — 11

(ख) भारतीय मुद्रा—रु० 6523.55
विदेशी मुद्रा—अमरीकी डालर 9,38,964.57 जो 68,38,723.10 रु० के बराबर है ।

सोवियत रूस स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिक

3901. **श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय सोवियत रूस स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिकों की संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ख) 1973–74 के वित्तीय वर्ष में उनके वेतन तथा भत्तों पर कितनी भारतीय तथा विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय हुई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) और (ख). सूचना संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है ।

विवरण

सोवियत समाजवादी गणतंत्र संघ स्थित भारत के राजदूतावास में कार्य कर रहे भारतीय और विदेशी नागरिकों की संख्या और 1973–74 के दौरान भारतीय एवं विदेशी मुद्रा में उनके वेतन एवं भत्तों पर किया गया व्यय ।

क्रम सं०	मिशन का नाम	भारतीय नागरिकों की संख्या	विदेशी नागरिकों की संख्या	1973–74 के दौरान किया गया खर्च		
				भारतीय मुद्रा में (रुपये)	विदेशी मुद्रा में (रुपये)	कुल (रुपये)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	भारत का राजदूतावास, मास्को	89	26	7,11,270	33,24,814	40,36,086
2.	प्रधान कौंसलावास, ओडेसा	3	3	29,550	1,52,255	1,81,805

फ्रांस स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिक

3902. **श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय फ्रांस स्थित भारतीय दूतावास मे काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिकों की संख्या कितनी है , और

(ख) 1973–74 के वित्तीय वर्ष में उनके वेतन तथा भत्तो पर कितनी भारतीय तथा विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय हुई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) और (ख). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जाएगी ।

ब्रिटेन स्थित भारतीय उच्चायोग में काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिक

3903. **श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय ब्रिटेन स्थित भारतीय उच्चायोग मे काम करने वाले भारतीय तथा विदेशी नागरिको की संख्या कितनी है; और

(ख) 1973–74 के वित्तीय वर्ष मे उनके वेतन तथा भत्तो पर कितनी भारतीय तथा विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय हुई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) और (ख). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Pollution of Areas Around Khetri

3904. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the findings of a study conducted by the Birla Institute of Science and Technology that large areas around Khetri in Rajasthan would be polluted by sulphur dioxide gas if the copper smelter starts working without a sulphuric acid plant;

(b) whether nearly 10,000 people of the Khetri township will be directly affected by the noxious gas; and

(c) if so, Government's assessment of the situation and the steps being taken to stop the pollution effects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). The design of the copper smelter at Khetri incorporates latest technology for effectively controlling the pollution problem. Several sophisticated equipment like Electrostatic Precipitators, Waste Heat Boilers, Baloon Flue, Gas Air Heat Exchanger, Dust Collecting Cyclones have been provided in the plant for treatment and cleaning of the sulphur dioxide gases. According to the programme, the commissioning of the Smelter will Synchronise with the commissioning of the sulphuric acid plant. However, to meet any eventuality, Hindustan Copper Ltd have constructed a chimney having a height of 121 metres (one of the tallest chimneys in India) for dispersal of gases into the atmosphere without causing pollution to the surrounding areas.

The study conducted by Birla Institute of Technology and Science did not take into account the special precautions and in-built checks provided in

the Smelter design at Khetri to combat pollution problem. When this was brought to the notice of Birla Institute of Technology and Science by Hindustan Copper Ltd., the Co-ordinator of the Ecological Research Team issued a press statement in the Hindustan Times on 2nd July, 1974 clarifying the position as under:—

"Ecology Round Khetri

Sir, The ecological studies being carried out by Birla Institute of Technology and Science at Khetri Copper Complex, are presently being done with the full cooperation of the authorities of Khetri Copper Complex. Your news item seems to convey the impressions that our studies are complete and the Complex authorities are doing nothing about pollution control. As a matter of fact, our studies have preceded the actual start of operation to ascertain the present ecological environment in existence before the actual operation begins.

Keeping in view the possible production of sulphur dioxide, the Complex authorities have incorporated the latest available technology to effectively combat pollution as far as possible. They have taken all necessary precautions and checks which are incorporated in the plant design so that there is minimal pollution of the surroundings. In fact to avail the sulphur in the smelter gases, a sulphuric plant has been installed so as not to emit the gases into the atmosphere. The fear and impression that the surrounding areas of Khetri Copper Complex will be highly polluted because of its operation is not correct.— Yours etc.

K. S. RAO,

Coordinator,

Ecological Research Team, Birla Institute of Tech. and Science. Pilani (Raj.) June, 19".

Increase in Unemployment in Delhi

3905. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of registered unemployed as recorded during the last three years at Delhi;

(b) the break up for post-graduates, graduates and matriculates and for ladies; and

(c) whether lack of recruitment in Government offices and commercial establishments is responsible for this steep rise and if so, the steps being taken to provide employment to the unemployed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The information relating to the number of job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Delhi is given in the statement attached.

(c) According to the available statistics relating to the 'organised sector', the number of vacancies notified to the employment exchanges in Delhi increased continuously, during the years 1971 to 1973 namely from 43.1 thousand in 1971 to 47.6 thousand in 1972 and further to 48.4 thousand in 1973.

Apart from the job opportunities created under normal development programmes, two special schemes for providing employment i.e., The 'Half-a-Million Jobs Programme' and the 'Employment Promotion Programme' have been initiated in 1973-74 and 1974-75. About 2,700 educated unemployed were provided with employment under the 'Half-a-Million Jobs Programme' in Delhi. In addition, 862 industrial sheds are being constructed, which on completion, are expected to provide employment to about 10,200 persons including 1,200 engineers. In 1974-75, under the

'Employment Promotion Programme' the Union Territory of Delhi has been allotted Rs. 60 lakhs and the details of the schemes are being finalised.

STATEMENT

(In thousands)

Educational level	Number of job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exchanges at the end of the year.					
	1971		1972		1973	
	Total	Women (included in Col. 2)	Total	Women (included in Col. 4)	Total	Women (included in Col. 6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Below Matric (including illiterates) .	62 6	3 6	67 1	3 9	68 9	5 4
2. Matriculates (including Higher Secondary)	50 8	8 7	61 9	14 6	93 0	11·4
3. Graduates .	17 7	4 8	20 7	6 3	22 2	7·2
4. Post-graduates .	8 1	3 1	9 5	4 0	10 9	5 2
TOTAL .	139 2	20 2	179 2	29 0	195 0	29·2

NOTE. All the job-seekers on the Live Register are not necessarily unemployed.

Superannuation Age in Coal Mines Authority Ltd.

3906. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEL and MINES be pleased to state whether superannuation age of 60 years which is in force in Bharat Coking Coal Limited for their employees would be adopted for employees in Coal Mines Authority Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): The retirement age has been raised from 58 years to 60 years in respect of workmen in the Coal Mines Authority.

Trade Unions for Healthy Industrial Relations

3907 SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 521 on the 29th March, 1973 and state:

(a) whether the study of workers' participation and other aspects of management in Yugoslavia has been fully made by now by his Ministry;

(b) whether Government contemplate recognising only one union instead of having three centrally recognised trade unions in order to have healthy industrial relations in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to evolve a healthy labour law to remove heart burning between trade unions in India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) It is after studying various patterns of participative management in Yugoslavia and other countries that proposals have been formulated for incorporation in the proposed comprehensive Bill on industrial relations.

(b) Representation of central trade union organisations at tripartite bodies like the Indian Labour Conference and Standing Labour Committee is governed by the decision of the Indian Labour Conference The question of proper and effective bargaining agent is being considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive Bill on Industrial Relations.

(c) The proposed comprehensive legislation will cover matters relating to various aspects of industrial relations.

Checking of Spurious Glucose Saline in Orissa

3908. SHRI P GANGADEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the stock of Glucose Saline in the open market in Orissa has been checked and declared as standard quality since the occurrence of Glucose deaths in U P.;

(b) whether Government hospitals have taken action to verify their stock for safety; and

(c) the steps taken by the Centre to stop such serious drugs being in operation in the open market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) No. It was not possible for the State Government to check all the stocks as they did not have facilities for doing to the same.

(b) Yes.

(c) (1) Necessary instructions have been given to all the State Drugs Control Authorities stressing the need for tightening of the inspection procedures of the manufacturing firms particularly those manufacturing life-saving drugs;

(2) A crash programme for inspection of all firms manufacturing injectibles and special drugs, such as antibiotics, has also been initiated by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

(3) A note indicating the steps taken by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to combat the manufacture and sale of spurious and substandard drugs is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-8341/74].

Meeting of Iranian Defence Team with Defence Minister

39909. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Iranian Defence team recently met him; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the discussion and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) A team consisting of 24 trainee officers and instructors from the Imperial Iranian National Defence College, Tehran met Raksha Mantri on the 3rd June, 1974

(b) This was in the nature of a good-will visit.

Shore Facilities for Storage Preparation, Repair and Over-Haul of Missiles

3910. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the introduction of sophisticated missile weaponry into the Navy, Government are thinking of setting up shore facilities for storage, preparation, repair and over-haul of missiles an allied equipment; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Shore facilities for surface to air missiles have already been set up. Shore facilities for storage and preparation of surface to surface missiles have also been set up and are functioning for the last few years.

(b) Facilities for repair and overhaul of surface to surface missiles are being established.

Proposal to Set up a Synthetic Oil Plant at Raniganj

3911. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up synthetic oil plant at Raniganj as proposed by an expert committee long back; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The report of the Ghosh Committee, prepared nearly 20 years ago, being outdated, the Government is setting up a Group of Experts to formulate and evaluate a scheme of coal carbonisation, Central tar-hydrogenation, gasification and oil synthesis, to locate the appropriate know-how and to suggest further course of action.

दिग्विजय इंडस्ट्रीज बांगरोद को दिया गया इस्पात

3912. **डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय :** क्या **इस्पात और खान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रतलाम जिले की दिग्विजय इंडस्ट्रीज बांगरोद, तथा जावरा स्थित स्टील मिल को जनवरी से अब तक कितना-कितना इस्पात दिया गया ;

(ख) क्या दिग्विजय उद्योग ने अपने कोटे का इस्पात काले बाजार में बेचा है जिसकी शिकायत सम्बद्ध विभाग को जो भी मिली है, और जावरा स्थित मिल द्वारा भी इस्पात का इसी प्रकार से दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस मामले में की गई जांच के निष्कर्ष क्या हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुबोध हंसदा): (क) से (ग). जानकारी प्राप्त की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Spurious Drugs

3913. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widespread incidence of spurious drugs, which has sharply pushed up the mortality rate in the country, is being sought to be controlled by the Health Ministry with a set of guidelines for the benefit of the common man; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the guidelines which have been issued in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) and (b). The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has prepared a note on the manner in which public can co-operate and assist the Drug Control Organisation in its campaign against spurious drugs. The note sets out the precautions which a consumer should take for his protection and also for assisting the Drugs Control Organisation in investigating cases of spurious drugs. A copy of the note is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8342/74]. The note containing the guidelines has been circulated to the Citizens Central Council and to the State Governments.

Filling of appeals in cases under E P.F. Act against M s Babul Bakery, Forbesganj, Purnea District

3914. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether 33 Criminal cases under section 14 of the E.P.F. Act, 1952 were filed against M s Babul Bakery, Forbesganj in the district of Purnea, out of which 20 cases were dismissed on the ground of jurisdiction and 13 cases were transferred to Araria Court, Purnea as reported by the conducting officer; and

(b) if so, what action was taken for filing appeals against the cases so dismissed and the stage at which the remaining 13 cases stand at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:—

(a) Yes.

(b) Since the cases were dismissed on ground of jurisdiction, no appeal was filed. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner is ascertaining the position regarding the remaining 13 cases.

Criminal cases under E.P.F. Act against M/s Gyanodaya Press of Patna

3915. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of criminal cases under section 14 of the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 filed against M|s Gyanodaya Press of Patna ended into acquittal due to the lapses on the part of the concerned Inspector; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against that Inspector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of Sabha in due course.

Cases under E.P.F. Act against M|s. Asiatic Trading Co., Gaya

3916. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether 66 criminal cases filed under Section 14 of the E.P.F. Act, 1952 against M|s Asiatic Trading Co., Gaya were dismissed by the trial court as the prosecution failed to prove the requisite number of employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure and what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) whether the Central Provident Fund Commission propose to institute an enquiry for ascertaining the factual position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Entitlement for out of turn allotment of cars and scooters

3917. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the categories of Central Government employees who are entitled for out of turn allotment of cars and scooters from Government quota;

(b) whether Government propose to include some more categories in the said list from the current year; and

(c) if so, what are those categories and the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Officers in the Personal staff of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and personages of like status and officials in the Personal staff of officers of the rank of Additional Secretary and above are given out of turn allotment of cars and scooters from the Central Government quota, if they are otherwise eligible.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of multi-purpose Health Schemes for vulnerable section of rural population

3918. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have urged the State Governments to take steps for immediate phased implementation of multi-purpose health schemes for vulnerable section of the rural population;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(c) how far the rural population are likely to be covered by the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA): (a) to (c). Multi-purpose Workers Scheme is intended to deliver health, family planning and nutritional services as a package and is expected to cover the entire rural areas in the country. The scheme has been accepted by all State Governments. Its implementation is to be carried out in phases and in the first stage it will cover districts which are not in the attack phase of malaria and where small-pox is under control.

Specialists facilities in Central Government Health Scheme Dispensaries

3919. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the number and names of the C G.H.S. Dispensaries in Delhi where the facility of specialists is not available at present and the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): Under Central Government Health Scheme, facilities for Specialist consultations are available in Willingdon and Safdarjang Hospitals to all beneficiaries. Specialist consultation is also made available through visits of Specialist to certain Centrally located dispensaries for which purpose they have been suitably grouped

Opening a Cancer Institute in S C.B. Medical College, Cuttack

3920. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open a Cancer Institute in S.C B Medical College, Cuttack (Orissa), and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K KISKU): (a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

Strike by workers of Leader Engineering Works, Jullundur

3921. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 900 workers of Leader Engineering Works in Jullundur are on strike since the beginning of May, 1974;

(b) whether the Labour Ministry has been requested to intervene and settle the strike; and

(c) if so, the facts and result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere According to available information there was partial strike by the workers of M/s Leader Engineering Works Jullundur, during April, 1974, in support of their main demands relating to payment of wages due, and retrenchment of some workers The strike is reported to have ended during the fortnight ending June 15, 1974

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Slump in the price of Aluminium

3922 SHRI M S. PURTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the price of aluminium has slumped to Rs. 12,000 per tonne from more than Rs 17,000 per tonne; and

(b) if so, the reasons behind the fall in price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) The prices of aluminium and aluminium products (except foils and extrusions) are controlled under the Aluminium Control Order, 1970. The present controlled prices of aluminium ingots, electrical conductor and commercial grades, are respectively Rs. 7112 and Rs. 7084 per metric tonne inclusive of excise duty.

Technical Committee for Indigenous production of components for Jabalpur Factory

3923 SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has constituted a separate technical committee for indigenous production of components and items required for army vehicles manufactured in the Vehicle Factory in Jabalpur, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes Sir A Committee was constituted in August, 1973

(b) The Constitution of the Committee is as follows —

Chairman

(i) General Manager Vehicle Factory Jabalpur

Members

(ii) Local representative of Director of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering.

(iii) Local representative of Chief Controller of Research & Development

(iv) Local representative of the Director of Ordnance Services

(v) Inspector of Vehicles (Central Zone), Jabalpur (Representative of Director General Inspection)

(vi) Representative of Director General Supplies & Disposals (to attend meetings if and when his presence is specifically required)

(vii) Joint Financial Controller (Factories), Jabalpur

(viii) Representative of Director General of Technical Development (to attend the meeting if and when his presence is specially required).

The Secretariat is provided by the General Manager, Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

2 The Committee has the discretion to lay down the form of the tender or inquiries to be issued to prospective suppliers/manufacturers including the special terms and conditions that may be warranted in individual cases for the establishment of feasibility development or stabilising of indigenous production

3 Based on the recommendation of the Committee contracts can be concluded by the General Manager, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur for the procurement of stores upto value not exceeding Rs 5 lakhs

4 All proposals for procurement not covered by the preceding para as well as matters of policy are to be referred to the Department of Defence Supplies for placement of orders

Coal Mines Reopened in 1973-74

3924 SHRI MARTAND SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the coal mines which were reopened in 1973 and so far in 1974 together with their reserve stocks of coal State-wise,

(b) whether the workers of these mines who were retrenched as a result of previous closure or lockout have since been re-employed and if so, their number State-wise, and

(c) the present strength of workers in each of these mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Speedy movement of Coal and Steel

8925. SHRI MARTAND SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn-up an emergency programme to ensure speedy movement of coal and steel;

(b) if so, the main features of the plan; and

(c) whether any separate authority is being created to implement this plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). Hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the reply given by the Deputy Minister of Steel and Mines to Unstarred Question No. 7165 in Lok Sabha on 18-4-1974 on the same subject and by Deputy Minister of Railways to Unstarred Question No. 7765 in Lok Sabha on 23-4-1974. No separate authority is being created for this purpose.

Loss to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

3926. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: SHRI N. E. HORO:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any loss suffered by Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur of ingot due to power shortage;

(b) whether gas shortage has upset the plant's production of high valued critical grades of steel, which was so badly needed to improve the financial position; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The estimated loss of production of ingot steel due to power shortage at the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, during the period from April—July 1974 is as under:—

	Loss of production of ingot steel (tonnes)
April 1974	1018
May 1974	230
June 1974	620
July 1974	1000

During April 1974, Durgapur Steel Plant had to restrict its operations in anticipation of the railway strike and in May 1974, as a result of the railway strike. Consequently, the supply of coke oven gas from Durgapur Steel Plant to Alloy Steels Plant was restricted. This affected the production of high valued grades of steel to some extent.

Ex-gratia compensation to claimants of evacuee properties left in West Pakistan

3927. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proper lists of evacuee properties left in West Pakistan and Western India before 1965 Indo-Pak war; and

(b) whether, while granting ex-gratia compensation to claimants having evacuee properties in West Pakistan lists of the properties of such claimants were verified from Government of West Pakistan before disruption of Indo-Pak diplomatic relation since 1971?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) (a) Government had been obtaining the revenue records on reciprocal basis in respect of agricultural lands left behind by the displaced persons in former West Pakistan after Partition.

Records of property taken over as evacuee property under the Evacuee Property Law were kept by the Custodian Organisation

(b) The compensation for displaced persons from West Pakistan was not given *ex-gratia*, but was regulated under the provisions of Displaced Persons (Compensation & Rehabilitation) Act 1954 and the Rules framed thereunder

In the case of claims for rural agricultural land the verification was done with reference to the revenue records mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question In case of claims for other immovable property, oral and/or documentary evidence was taken

Manufacture of Commercial Vehicle Chassis

3928 SHRI M S. PURTY Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commercial vehicles chassis manufactured during the last three years upto December, 1973, unit-wise, and

(b) the number of such chassis supplied by manufacturers to various States during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) The unit-wise production of commercial vehicles chassis during the last three years upto December, 1973 has been as under —

	Name of the firm	Production		
		1971	1972	1973
1	M/s Tata Engg & Locomotive Compnay Ltd, Bombay	24,654	22,441	23,107
2.	,, Hindustan Motors, West Bengal	1,609	1,547	2,324
3	,, Premier Automobiles, Bombay	4 572	3,489	4,041
4	,, Standard Motors, Madras	330	1,415	965
5	Ashok Leyland, Madras	5 456	4,244	5,659
6	,, Bajaj Tempo Ltd, Poona	3 322	3,416	5,005
7.	,, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Bombay	922	911	1,299
	TOTAL	40,865	37,466	42,400

(b) There is no control over distribution Vehicles of different makes and models are distributed by manufacturers through their authorized dealers in sequence of registration Government has no information of allocation of all the makes of vehicles to different states

Co-operation between India and Canada for Defence Research and production of equipment

3929 SHRI D. B CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether India and Canada have agreed to co-operate in the sphere of defence research and production of equipment, and

(b) if so, the gist of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) There have been talks between India and Canada for co-operation in the fields of defence research and production of equipment These talks were however, only exploratory in nature

(b) Does not arise

नांगलराय गांव में भूमि को अर्जन से मुक्त करना

3930. **श्री सुधाकर पांडे :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री सरकार द्वारा नई दिल्ली के एक ग्राम नांगलराय मे अर्जित 9 83 एकड भूमि के बारे मे 23 अगस्त, 1973 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 4105 के उत्तर के संबध मे यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार ने जनवरी, 1974 मे उपरोक्त भूमि को अर्जन से मुक्त करने के बारे मे अपनी विधिवत् स्वीकृति दी थी ;

(ख) क्या इसके लिए सक्षम अधिकारी ने इस भूमि को अर्जन से मुक्त करने के संबध मे अभी तक आवश्यक कार्यवाही नही की है ,

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) सरकार उपरोक्त भूमि का विधिवत् कब्जा उसके मालिकों को कब तक दे देगी ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री डी० बी० पटनायक) : (क) से (घ) भूमि को अर्जन मुक्त करने के लिए जनवरी 1974 में निर्णय किया गया था परन्तु भूमि को अर्जन मुक्त करने से पूर्व इसे यथासम्भव इसके मूल रुप मे लाना है । इसमे भूमि पर बनी इमारत के रुप मे कतिपय सम्पत्ति का हटाया जाना सम्मिलित था । कुछ सम्पत्ति को हटा दिया गया है और शेष भूमि के स्वामियो को बेच दी गई है । जून, 1971 मे कलक्टर जो कि सक्षम प्राधिकारी हैं, को अचल सम्पत्ति अधिनियम 1952 की व्यवस्थाओ के अधीन भूमि को विधिवत अर्जन मुक्त करने का अनुरोध किया गया था । सक्षम अधिकारी ज्योंहि भूमि को अर्जन मुक्त करने के आदेश जारी कर दिए जाएंगे मालिको को भूमि का कब्जा दे दिया जाएगा ।

भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र की भूमि पर अनधिकृत कब्जा

3931. **श्री चन्दु लाल चन्द्राकर :** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भिलाई के लिये सरकार द्वारा अधिगृहित भूमि मे से कितनी भूमि पर वर्ष 1971-72, 1972-73 और 1973-74 मे और अब तक कितने व्यक्ति अनधिकृत रुप से बस चुके है ,

(ख) इस प्रकार बसे हुए परिवारो की संख्या कितनी है और वे कितनी एकड भूमि मे बसे हुए हैं ,

(ग) क्या इन्हें अधिकृत रुप से बसा देने मे सरकार की आय में भारी वृद्धि नहीं होगी यदि हां, तो इन्हे नियमित न करने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) क्या इन बस्तियों के निवासियों को पेय जल की कठिनाइयां हैं, और यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुबोध हंसदा) : (क) भिलाई इस्पात कारखाने की भूमि पर अनधिकृत रूप से बसे हुए व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या 3,000 से अधिक है जो लगभग 450 एकड़ में बसे हुए है। अनधिकृत कब्जा विभिन्न कार्यस्थलों और खाली जगहों पर अधिकांशतः राष्ट्रीय राजपथ संख्या 6 के उत्तर में तथा उतराई सड़क के दक्षिण में स्थित श्रमिक शिविर क्षेत्रों में अस्थायी झोपड़ियों और दुकानों के रूप में है। वर्ष 1971 से 1974 की अवधि में अतिक्रमण अनधिकृत निर्माणों का वर्षवार विवरण उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ख) वर्ष 1971-72 से 1973-74 की अवधि में 1158 दुकानों और व्यवसाय स्थानों तथा परिवारों को फिर से बसाया/नियमित किया अथवा आबाद किया जा चुका है। उनके कब्जे में लगभग 200 एकड़ भूमि है।

(ग) क्योंकि ये भूमि हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड की है अतः सरकार के राजस्व में वृद्धि होने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) जी, नहीं। इन बस्तियों में पीने के पानी की न्यूनतम आवश्यकताओं के लिए पानी उपलब्ध है। भिलाई-दुर्ग विशेष क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकरण के बन जाने पर सुविधाओं (पीने का पानी भी शामिल है) में वृद्धि करने के प्रश्न पर इस प्राधिकरण द्वारा विचार किया जाएगा।

Increase in Malaria, Smallpox and Polio cases in the Country

3932 SHRI MARTAND SINGH Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether diseases like malaria, smallpox and polio which were thought to be completely under control are once again showing an alarming rise in the country,

(b) if so the number of persons, state-wise, who are suffering from these diseases, and

(c) the efforts of Government in this regard to save the population from these diseases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K KISKU): (a) There has been an increase in the incidence of malaria and smallpox There is no evidence to show that there has been an increase of polio cases

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (Placed in Library See No LT-8343 74)

(c) The National Malaria Eradication Programme and the National Smallpox Eradication Programme are being continued during the 5th Plan as Centrally Sponsored Schemes These Programmes are reviewed from time to time and action as necessary is taken for better implementation Facilities for immunization against polio are being improved

Requirement of cold rolled grain oriented Steel

3933. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of cold rolled grain oriented steel in the country; and

(b) the quantity of pack steel which is imported and the names of the countries from which it is imported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) The current demand for cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) silicon steel sheets is estimated to be about 25,000 tonnes per annum.

(b) It is presumed that the reference is to Import figures in respect of CRGO sheets. If so, import statistics do not contain the break-up of grain oriented and non-oriented sheets. Of the total import of electrical steel sheets in 1971-72 amounting to 23,735 tonnes, the largest share is taken by the United Kingdom followed by U.S.A. and Japan. Small quantities were also imported from Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, GDR, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland and Sweden.

Export of Steel worth Rs. 50 crores

3934 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the current year Government propose to export steel worth over Rs. 50 crores;

(b) if so, whether exports will be to the developed or developing countries;

(c) whether our steel will be 40 per cent cheaper than the world market; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this unfavourable price-fixation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Export orders worth over Rs. 50 crores are likely to be secured during 1974-75.

(b) Exports are likely to be both to developed as well as developing countries.

(c) and (d). Export of steel is allowed on the basis of best prices obtained in world markets.

Disputes of Registered Trade Unions of Seamen of India

3935. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the registered trade unions of seamen of India can raise any dispute as per Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(b) if not, what is the machinery through which such disputes could be settled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Disputes between Seamen and employers are to be settled as per provisions of Section 150 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 Usually, these disputes are either settled by the National Maritime Board, a bi-partite body of the shipowners and seafarers to consider and decide the wages and other service conditions of seamen, or by tripartite talks between Government, Shipowners and seamen's unions Disputes can also be referred to Tribunals for adjudication.

Collection of copper raw material from Aakawali Project in Rajasthan

3936. SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lease is being granted to some private party to work and collect copper raw material from Aakawali project in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, to whom and the terms thereof; and

(c) the reasons of it not being undertaken by a public undertaking such as Hindustan Copper Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) An application of a private party has been received but no final decision has been taken;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question as to whether Hindustan Copper Ltd should take up this deposit, or not, is under examination

Request for assistance for Land Reforms in Sikkim

3937. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim has approached the Government to provide assistance in the matter of land reforms;

(b) if so, when such request was received from that Government; and

(c) the extent of such assistance Government are considering to provide and on what terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Transportation of coal from coal mines for power generation

3938. SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal mines in the country from where coal is transported to other States for power generation;

(b) whether Governments of these States had raised objection from whose mines coal is being transported to other States and power is being generated by Government; and

(c) if so, the names of those States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Coal is being transported to other States for power generation from a large number of coal mines situated in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No such objection has been received

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in sale of Bharat Electronics Limited

3939. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Limited has increased its sales by 22 per cent over the sales of the previous years;

(b) whether along with the sales the production of items also improved by 11.5 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether this tempo of export and production is expected to be at least maintained if not increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The sales of Bharat Electronics Ltd. in 1973-74 rose to Rs. 48.61 crores from Rs. 39.73 crores during 1972-73; thus registering an increase of nearly 22 per cent.

(b) The production of Bharat Electronics Ltd. in 1973-74 rose to Rs. 45.10 crores from Rs. 39.11 crores during 1972-73; thus registering an increase of nearly 15 per cent.

(c) The production in Bharat Electronics Limited has been adversely affected by power cut recently but every effort is being made to maintain the tempo of export and production.

Setting up a factory by M.P. and Karnataka for Manufacture of Transformers

3940. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have jointly set up a Rs. 50 lakh factory for manufacture of transformers at Gosalpur village near Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for selection village, Gosalpur, for this joint venture; and

(c) whether transformers can be manufactured in small scale industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The NGEF Limited, Bangalore, a Karnataka State Undertaking, is setting up a factory for the manufacture of transformers at Gosalpur Village near Jabalpur as a joint venture with the Madhya Pradesh State Industries Corporation.

(b) It would be for the State enterprises concerned to decide which is the most suitable location for the project they wish to set up.

(c) Small distribution transformers can be manufactured in the small scale sector.

Visit to India by a delegation from Afghanistan

3941. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from Afghanistan visited India in June to discuss matters of mutual interest;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The delegation visited India in connection with the 3rd Meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission, and the press communique issued after the discussions is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8344/74].

Malaria in the Country

3942. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether over one and a half million cases of malaria were reported last year in the country;

(b) whether a review of the National Malaria Eradication Programme has revealed that despite years of spraying of various chemicals and pesticides, malaria has not been eradicated;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the reasons for failure of the ambitious programme; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for eradication of malaria in the country on a war footing?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) About one and a half million cases of malaria were reported in 1973.

(b) to (d). The increase in the incidence of Malaria can be tabulated to:—

(1) difficulties in the timely procurement and distribution of insecticides in adequate quantities;

(2) development of resistance to conventional insecticides by certain types of mosquitoes in some areas; and

(3) rapid urbanization and industrialization resulting in increase in mosquito-genic conditions.

The National Malaria Eradication Programme is being periodically reviewed and necessary remedial measures are being taken wherever found necessary. Working Groups consisting of eminent administrators and scientists connected with the malaria problem have been set up to advise the Government about an alternative strategy and research needs of the National Malaria Eradication Programme.

Distribution of Foodgrains among Coal Mine Workers

3943. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a Scheme for distribution of foodgrains among coal mine workers;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme drawn up; and

(c) subsidy if any proposed to be given by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). Distribution of foodgrains among the coal mine workers is the responsibility of the State Governments. A scheme for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities is also being worked out by the Central Government with a view to supplement the efforts of the distribution system of the State Governments.

(c) No, Sir.

Manufacture of Fixed Wings Agricultural Planes

3944. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore has started manufacture of fixed wing agricultural planes, with financial assistance from the Union Ministry of Agriculture; and

(b) if so, whether such manufacturing capacity has been created recently or the planes were manufactured at the cost of other design manufacture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agricultural aircraft "Basant" is being manufactured within the resources available in Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited and through sub-contract. No separate manufacturing facility has been created. The project has not affected design/manufacture of any other aircraft.

Workers denied Gratuity during closure and liquidation of units in West Bengal

3945. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number and broad outlines of cases brought to the notice of Government in the industrial units where the workers are denied gratuity during the closure and liquidation of the units in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) whether any action taken regarding any case; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines of the action taken and the result achieved in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Gratuity Fund

3946. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will create gratuity fund for protecting the gratuity rights of the workers especially during the closure or liquidation of the industrial units;

(b) if so, the outlines of the work done in this respect and the nature of the complaint made by the workers in this regard; and

(c) the particulars of the committee members which is going into the affairs regarding this?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The matter has recently been examined by a Committee set up by Government for the purpose. Information is not available about any complaints that may have been made by workers of establishments in respect of which the State Governments are the appropriate Governments. In the Central sphere, two complaints about non-payment of gratuity in cases of closure and liquidation have been received by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery which is looking into the matter

(c) The Committee which went into the question of the protection of gratuity rights and other allied matters consisted of:—

1. Shri N. P. Dube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.	Chairman
2. Shri C. B. More, Assistant Controller of Insurance, Simla.	Member
3. Shri V. Balasubramaniam, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi.	Member
4. Shri B. V. Laud, Commissioner of Labour, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay.	Member
5. Shri N. C. Kundu, Additional Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, Calcutta.	Member
6. Shri A. S. Unni, Secretary, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, Trivandrum.	Member
7. Shri R. M. Mehta, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay.	Member
8. Shri Daljit Singh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour. New Delhi.	Secretary.

Priority in allotment of cars to Doctors Doctors

3947 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA. Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether Doctors have priority over others in obtaining permits for purchase of cars for their practice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) Yes, Sir.

New Trade and Payment Agreement between China and Nepal

3948 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are aware of any new Trade and Payment Agreement signed between China and Nepal, and

(b) whether the agreement is likely to have any adverse effect on Nepal's traditional economic ties with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir We do not anticipate any such effect on traditional Indo-Nepal economic ties

Memo from United Mineral Workers' Union Gua, Singhbhum, Bihar

3949. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Secretary of the United Mineral Workers' Union, Gua, Singhbhum, Bihar has in a memorandum dated the 24th July, 1974 addressed to the Minister of Steel and Mines demanded the taking over of the Chiriburu Quartzide Mineral Mines of M/s Orissa Cement Limited Lotpahar, Singhbhum; and

(b) if so, Government reaction thereon with reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Labour are already seized of the labour problems and grievances at the mine which have led to the demand for take-over.

Ill effects of Gas Ripened Fruits

3950 SHRI BAKSI NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn by the Consumer's Council of India to the ill-effects of gas-ripened fruits; and

(b) if so, steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K KISKU): (a) Yes

(b) The effects of the consumption of gas ripened fruits on human-beings are still being investigated

U.N. List of Countries Worst-hit by rising Food and Fuel Prices

3951 SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.N. Secretary-General has put India, Pakistan and Bangladesh amongst the 28 countries worst-hit by the rising food and fuel prices;

(b) whether he has circulated the list amongst all the U.N. members; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The list has been drawn up on the basis of criteria indicated in the Programme of Action adopted by the Sixth Special Session of the UN General Assembly, which include *inter alia* increase in the import costs of essentials relative to export earnings.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has been actively participating in efforts at the international level for finding methods to alleviate the balance of payments problems faced by the most seriously affected developing countries. The steps currently being taken by the Secretary General of the United Nations are in pursuance of the decisions of the Sixth Spectal Session of General Assembly to launch a Special Programme of assistance for this purpose.

Shortage of Iron and Steel for Maharashtra Small Scale Units

3952. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of iron and steel have affected small scale units in Maharashtra and other States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed in the matter to ensure restoration of normal production by small scale units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) The demand for iron and steel is in excess of availability in respect of several categories and as such, small scale units in Maharashtra as in other parts of the country, might be facing the problem of inadequacy in supply. Under the present system of distribution, there are no State-wise allocations. Despatches of steel from the main steel plants are regulated by the Steel Priority Committee after taking into account the availability in a particular period, end-use for which the steel is required and the competing demands.

(b) Steps taken to increase availability of steel included stepping up of production by technological improvements better industrial relations; improved maintenance of plant and machinery; provision of balancing facilities at the steel plants, programmes of renovation and capital repairs aimed at better equipment availability, a liberal import policy, particularly in respect of categories in short supply regulation of exports and streamlining of the system of distribution

Expansion problems of Kothagudium Coal Mines

3953. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mines in Kothagudium are having expansion problems;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon;

(c) whether their coal mines are running on profit: and

(d) their production and profit for 1972-73 and 1973-74?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansions of Hindustan Latex Ltd. at Trivandrum

3954. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Hindustan Latex Ltd. at Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the proposal and the steps already taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes. Government have approved a proposal to increase the existing production capacity of Nirodh Factory, Trivandrum, from 144 million pieces per annum to 288 million pieces per annum The new plant is to be fabricated and erected by the Engineering Project (India) Limited. They have already placed orders for a boiler and some other items for the project

Agreement between Nixon and Brezhnev on Underground Nuclear Explosions

3955. SHRI R S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent agreement between former President Nixon and Soviet Communist Party Chief Brezhnev on underground nuclear explosions; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a matter of satisfaction that the two Great Powers have reached agreement on further limitation of the arms race. The specific exclusion of underground nuclear tests for peaceful purposes from the treaty is a welcome feature, as it corresponds to the Indian position which favours non-discriminatory development of all peaceful uses of nuclear energy by all countries.

News report re: behind Bhutto's Olive Branch

3956. SHRI VASANT SATHE:

SHRI DHAMANKAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in an English daily of the 7th August, 1974 under the caption 'Behind Bhutto's Olive Branch', and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have verified the informatian contained in the press report. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details All related developments bearing on our security are kept under constant review. Our security forces are maintaining constant vigilance on the borders and have orders to take firm action where necessary.

Increase in Labour Unrest

3957. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour unrest in the country over the past three years is increasing and has assumed alarming proportion;

(b) if so, the facts thereabout—industry and State-wise for the past three years;

(c) whether Government have formulated an integrated plan of action to check the mounting unrest among the industrial labour specially core sector of the industry; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Statements I & II summarising the available information about the number of mandays lost, industry-wise (major Industries), and state-wise, during 1971, 1972 and 1973 (provisional); are laid on the Table of the House, [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8345/74].

(c) and (d). The Industrial Relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the States, contineus to make efforts to minimise work-stoppages resulting from labour unrest through informal discussions, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements. Institutional arrangements to secure speedy settlement of disputes/workers' grievances are sought to be made in the comprehensive legislation on Industrial Relations, details in respect of which are being worked out.

Closure of N.C.C. Technical Units in Vidarbha Region Colleges of Maharashtra

3958. SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move afoot to close down N.C.C. Technical Units in Vidarbha Region colleges of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a move is unjust as it would deny an opportunity to the college students for technical training to help facilitate selection in military commission, apart from throwing more than 150 employees out of jobs; and

(d) if so, whether Government would reconsider the move to continue N.C.C. Technical Units in the region, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production of Durgapur Steel Plant

3959. SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Durgapur Steel Plant according to an announcement by the General Manager, production has reached an all-time record;

(b) if so, the facts thereabout;

(c) the factors contributing to such increase of production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to appreciate the role of workers and other technicians and officers in making production target a success?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The General Manager of Durgapur Steel Plant has not made any such announcement. The production of saleable steel at the Durgapur Steel Plant in June, 1974 at 64,654 tonnes is the highest since March, 1966 but is not an all time record.

(c) During the period of the Railway strike, the plant built up adequate stocks of raw materials owing

to reduced consumption. Once the strike was called off, production was gradually increased. The power position during June was not unsatisfactory and the industrial relations situation was relatively peaceful. The overall performance of the finishing mills was also good As a result of all these factors, the production of saleable steel in June showed a considerable increase.

(d) Government have noted with appreciation the good work of the workers and other technicians and officers that has led to the satisfactory production in June and hope that this will be kept up and that the target for the year with a hit;

Acquisition of Land in Gurdaspur District, Punjab by Army

3960 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army authorities have taken over some land from the people in Pathankot Tehsil of Gurdaspur District of Punjab;

(b) if so, the total area acquired by the Government during the last three years.

(c) the number of persons, both land owners and tenants, separately who have been paid compensation by the Government; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to each one of these categories separately during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 370 45 acres

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of Compensation to Tenants and Land Owners of Gurdaspur District

3961 PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations have been received from the people of Pathankot Tehsil in Gurdaspur District of Punjab regarding the payment of Pathankot Tehsil in Gurdaspur Distenants and land owners whose lands have been acquired by the Army Authorities during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the action taken on these representations by the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Information in respect of the various representations received in this connection is given below.

Sl. No.	Gist of representation	Action taken
1	The houses/lands belonging to the petitioners who were Harijans have been acquired in abadi area by Army and no compensation has been paid to them.	Investigation showed that no abadi area of Harijans had been included in the acquisition proceedings. Petitioners have been informed accordingly.
2	The Cost of acquisition has not been paid to the petitioner.	Investigation showed that the land is under process of acquisition and cost of land will be paid only after the announcement of award by the Collector. Petitioner has been informed accordingly

Sl. No.	Gist of representation	Action taken
3	Land belonging to the petitioners is being acquired by the Army authorities.	Investigation showed that there is no proposal for the acquisition/requisition of the particular lands. Petitioners have been informed.
4	Compensation has not been paid to the petitioners.	Financial sanction issued on 22-8-73. Local ML&C authorities have been asked to verify whether the compensation has been disbursed to the petitioner. Disbursement is the responsibility of the Collector.
5	Compensation at a lesser rate is being paid to him in comparison to the adjocent land.	Financial sanction was issued on 22-8-73 on the basis of rates proposed by the Land Acquisition Officer who has diiaced the area into three blocks taking into consideration the situation/potential of the land. The owner can seek arbitration. Petitioner is being informed accordingly.
6	Compensation paid to petitioners is not fair. Have asked for the appointment of an arbitrator u/s 8(b) of RAIP ACT 1952.	Arbitrator has been appointed by the State Government.
7	Land of the petitioners is under active consideration for acquisition by Defence Department and rate of compensation should be Rs. 10,000 per acre.	Government sanction for acquisition has issued and the land is under process of acquisition. Collector is yet to announce the award.
8	Trees numbering 18 were acquired but no compensation paid.	Investigation showed that trees were not on the land acquired by Defence. Petitioner was informed of position.
9	House of the petitioner which was constructed before requisitioning of land had not been taken over by the Army and no compensation had been paid.	Investigation showed that the house was constructed after the land had been requisitioned. This is a case of encroachment. Petitioner was informed accordingly.

Deposits of Copper and Silver in Sidhi District Madhya Pradesh

3962. SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether extensive copper and silver deposits have been found in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to exploit these deposits; and

(c) by when this work will be started and how many people are estimated to get employment in it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Geological investigations conducted in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh have revealed that Copper shows in the form of malachite stains occur profusely in carbonaceous phyllite associated with qualities and crystalline limestones near Byriah, Baheratolo Guriarra and Satnarah. Silver is reported to occur in traces along

with sillimanite in an area of about 18 hectares, ground Motagama village, situated about 24 km. west of Sidhi town.

(b) and (c). Exploration work by the Geological Survey of India's drill units is being undertaken in Guriara area for Copper. Since investigations are still continuing on the above deposits, the question of exploitation of these deposits does not arise at the stage.

Central Gratuity Fund Committee

3963 SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the particulars of members of Central Gratuity Fund Committee which is going into the affairs of protecting the gratuity rights of the workers especially during the closure of liquidation of industrial units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Committee has already submitted its report. It considered of:

1. Shri N. P. Dube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi — Chairman
2. Shri C. B. More, Assistant Controller of Insurance, Simla. — Member
3. Shri V. Balasubramaniam, Deputy Director Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi. — Member
4. Shri B. V. Laud, Commissioner of Labour, Government of Maharashtra, Bombay. — Member
5. Shri N. C. Kundu, Additional Labour, Commissioner, West Bengal, Calcutta. — Member
6. Shri A. S. Unni, Secretary, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, Trivandrum. — Member
7. Shri R. M. Mehta, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay. — Member
8. Shri Daljit Singh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi. — Secretary

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राजमहल, बिहार में चीनी, मिट्टी की खानों के श्रमिकों को कम मजूरी

3064. **श्री जगदीश नारायण मण्डल:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि राजमहल, बिहार की चीनी मिट्टी की खानों में लगभग 10 हजार से भी अधिक मजदूर काम करते है, जिन्हें प्रतिदिन एक रुपया साठ पैसा से एक रुपया अस्सी पैसा तक मजूरी दी जाती है ,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार चीनी मिट्टी की खानों पर निम्नतम मजूरी अधिनियम के उपबन्धों को लागू करने का है , और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) से (घ) सूचित किया गया है कि चीनी मिट्टी की खानों में मजदूरी कम है । इस विचार से सरकार ने चीनी मिट्टी की खानों में नियोजन को न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम, 1948 की अनुसूची में जोड़ा है और इन खानों में श्रमिकों के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी निर्धारित करने हेतु कार्यवाही की जा रही है ।

Unemployment among Graduates

3965. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment problem is once again causing great harm to the country;

(b) whether there are graduates who have enrolled themselves in the Employment Exchanges since 1972 but have not been offered any posts so far;

(c) if so, how many such cases are there in the country; and

(d) whether any alternative has been suggested by his Ministry to deal such cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Precise estimates of unemployment are not available. Government is, however, fully seized of the seriousness of the unemployment problem in the country as reflected by the rising trend in the number of job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges. In addition to the normal development programmes, Government have recently initiated a number of special employment generation programmes. The Committee on Unemployment (Bhagavati Committee) set up by the Government recently had also covered a wide ground having a bearing on employment promotion in various sectors of the economy.

(b) and (c). Information in regard to the number of graduates who got registered with the Employment Exchanges since 1972 but have not been offered any post so far is not available. However, the number of graduates (including post graduates) registered with the Employment Exchanges and placed in employment during the years 1972 and 1973 was 10.92 lakhs and 1.01 lakhs respectively.

(d) In addition to the recent amendment to the Apprentices Act 1961 so as to extend its coverage to the degree and diploma holders in engineering, with a view to improving their employability, Government have also implemented certain employment oriented schemes for the benefit of the educated unemployed persons, including graduates/post graduates etc., such as the scheme for the benefit of educated unemployed. Half-a-Million Jobs Programme, and the Employment Promotion Programme.

Assam Sugar Mills Ltd.

3966. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Sugar Mills Limited, Cachar, Assam has not established any factory as yet despite the grant of huge quota of steels;

(b) whether the company has sold away through its promoter all steels in blackmarket; and

(c) the action taken against the company and the promoter, names of the Directors and promoters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to(c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Threat by Saigon for Breaking Ties with India

3967. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in a local English Daily dated the 4th August, 1974 regarding "Saigon may break ties with India"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the event of such a threat by Saigon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) The Government has seen the news item in question However, in the course of discussions in Delhi and Saigon, the representatives of the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (Saigon) have not said that they would break ties with India

(b) The position of the Government of India is that any action taken by us to develop more direct and formal contacts with the PRG of South Vietnam is not intended to affect the relations that already exist between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. We have been in touch with the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, both in New Delhi and in Saigon, and our position has been made clear to them.

Steel Plant in Dubai

3968. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants of India and Government of United Arab Emirates to set up steel plant in Dubai;

(b) if so, the salient features of agreement;

(c) the time by which the plant is expected to be completed and start production together with its annual production; and

(d) the estimated foreign exchange involved in such a bargain?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA):

(a) The Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. have been commissioned by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to prepare a feasibility report for the setting up a Sponge Iron Steel Plant Complex at Dubai

(b) The Feasibility Report is to be submitted in January, 1975. The capacity of the plant will be about 400,000 tonnes of sponge iron and 300,000 tonnes of billets per annum. The plant will be based on Indian Iron ore and local natural gas

(c) The feasibility report will indicate the time schedule for the construction and commissioning of the plant

(d) At present the only foreign exchange involved is the fee payable for the preparation of the feasibility report

Foreign Minister's visit to Singapore, Malasiya and Indonesia

3969 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited Singapore, Malasiya and Indonesia; and

(b) if so, the nature of the talks held by him with the leaders of those

countries, especially with regard to maintaining Indian Ocean as peace-zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Minister of External Affairs visited Singapore from 4 to 6 August and Indonesia from 6 to 8 August, 1974.

(b) Discussions were held with leaders of both countries on matters of mutual interest covering bilateral relations and developments in the International field.

This included the question of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The visit to Singapore was informed and no formal statement or communique was issued at the end of the visit. The Djakarta visit was, however, in the context of the periodical Minister-level talks and the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Djakarta visit stated that "the Foreign Ministars expressed concern at the lack of progress towards realisation of the objective of establishing the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace in accordance with the resolution adopted by the U.N." and, "called upon the Great Powers to act with the restraint and cooperate in preserving the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

Recognition of PRG of South Vietnam

3970. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has expressed its displeasure over Government of India's announced intention to establish formal contacts with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, whether Government of India has therefore decided not to give diplomatic recognition to the P.R.G.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Government of India continues to feel as already announced. that a stage has now been reached when we should develop more direct and formal contacts with the PRG.

अस्थायी क्रांतिकारी सरकारों को मान्यता देने का प्रस्ताव

3971. **श्री बनशाह प्रधान :** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन्होंने हाल ही में कहा था कि सरकार अस्थायी क्रांतिकारी सरकारों के साथ सम्पर्क स्थापित करेगी और यदि हां, तो ऐसी अस्थायी क्रांतिकारी सरकारों की संख्या कितनी है जिनके साथ अब तक सम्पर्क स्थापित किया गया है ;

(ख) कितने देशों की सरकारों को मान्यता दी गई है या देने का विचार है ; और

(ग) इस बारे में सरकार की विदेश नीति की मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री स्वर्ण सिंह) : (क) से (ग). मैंने निश्चय ही यह कहा था कि अब ऐसी स्थिति आ गई है जब हमें दक्षिण वियतनाम की अस्थायी क्रांतिकारी सरकार के साथ अधिक सीधे संबंध विकसित करने चाहिए । अन्य अस्थायी सरकारों के साथ हमारे क्या संबंध है ; यह एक अलग मामला है इसका अस्थायी क्रांतिकारी सरकार के बारे में की गई घोषणा से कोई संबंध नहीं है ।

पाकिस्तान द्वारा अणु बम का निर्माण

3972. **श्री बनशाह प्रधान :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार ने एक अणु बम बनाने की घोषणा की है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथ्य क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) : (क) इस विषय पर हमारे पास कोई प्रामाणिक सूचना नहीं है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Steps to prevent epidemics in Delhi

3973. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there is a sharp rise in the incidence of diseases in Delhi spread by mosquitoes and flies; and

(b) what concrete steps are taken to prevent the spread of epidemics?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) Except for a slight increase in malaria cases there has been no increase in the incidence of other diseases in Delhi.

(b) Anti-larval measures and spray of insecticides in riverine areas and jhuggies are being carried out to check mosquitoes. Anti-fly measures are taken by way of proper disposal of garbage and human and animal wastes.

Movement of Pak infiltrators on Indo-Pak Border

3974. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Call of 'Alert' to Pakistani troops, a large number of trained Pakistani infiltrators have been seen moving across Indo-Pak Border; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Government have no such information.

(b) Does not arise.

General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant patronising a transport company

3975. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant is involved in unduly patronising a transport company in which his brother is a partner;

(b) whether detailed investigation in the matter has been ordered; and

(c) whether any penal action against the General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant has been taken or is proposed to be taken for violation of relevant provisions of the Companies Act under which he is required to intimate the Company Law Board for his any interest in the supplier/contractor of the company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c). Among the transport companies functioning in Bhilai, there is one in which the brother of the present General Manager of the Bhilai Steel Plant is a partner. It has been operating there since well before the time he became General Manager. No

complaint has been received by Government of any undue patronage. The contracts awarded to this company after the present General Manager took charge of the post and became a Director of Hindustan Steel Ltd. had not been formally brought before the Board of Directors and approved by them as prescribed by the Companies Act. Consequently, the General Manager, Bhilai Steel Plant is deemed to have ceased to be a Director of Hindustan Steel Ltd. with effect from the middle of May, 1972 as provided in Sections 283 and 299 of the Companies Act.

Aluminium Foils Unit in Andhra Pradesh

3976. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation had applied for a letter of intent in November, 1973 for the establishment of an Aluminium Foils unit with a capacity of 3,000 tonnes per year, and

(b) whether the Union Government have taken a decision on it and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI (SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The application of the party is under consideration of Government.

सैनिक पड़ाव के लिए अलग रखी गई भूमि का उपयोग

3977. श्री महा वीपक सिंह शाक्य : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या अंग्रेजों के शासन काल में सैनिक पड़ाव के लिए अलग रखी गई भूमि पर उत्तर प्रदेश के अनेक शहरों में अवैध कब्जा कर लिया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे शहरों की संख्या कितनी है और उत्तर प्रदेश के ऐटा जिला में ऐसे व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है, जिन्होंने भूमि पर अवैध कब्जा किया हुआ है और इस बारे में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री जे० बी० पटनायक) : (क) और (ख). उत्तर प्रदेश में 80 सैनिक पड़ावों में से 39 पड़ावों के कुछ भागों पर अवैध कब्जा कर लिया गया है। ऐटा जिले में पड़ाव की कुछ भूमि पर 68 व्यक्तियों द्वारा अवैध कब्जा कर लिया गया है। अवैध कब्जों को खाली कराने के लिए सार्वजनिक परिसर (अवैध दखलकार से बेदखली) अधिनियम, 1971 के अधीन कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

C.B.I. investigation against Chief Transport and Shipping Manager, H.S.L., Calcutta

3978 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a CBI investigation was in progress against the Chief Transport and Shipping Manager, Hindustan Steel Limited, Calcutta on charges of mishandling contracts;

(b) if so, whether the inquiry has been completed and the findings thereof; and

(c) whether during the period of inquiry the officer concerned has been allowed to continue his normal duties, and thereby being in a position to prejudice the inquiries in his favour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation have submitted their report and, on the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, a departmental inquiry was initiated against the General Transport & Shipping Manager, Central Sales Organisation, Hindustan Steel Ltd., Calcutta. The inquiry has been completed, and the report of the Inquiry Officer is awaiting.

(c) He is continuing his normal duties which did not interfere with the inquiry.

Lockouts in Chiriburu in Quartsite Mines in Bihar

3979 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Chiriburu Quartzite Mines in Bihar has repeatedly been imposing illegal lock-outs since 1973;

(b) whether the latest such lock-out is going on since 2nd May, 1974 leading to starvation of 2000 adivasi workers; and

(c) whether safety rules and statutory welfare facilities like hospital, canteen, school, drinking water supply etc. are violated by the management?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The matter of refusal of employment to 1100 workers w.e.f. 29th September, 1973 was referred for adjudication on 4th January, 1974. The continuance of the lock-out in existence was also prohibited on the same date. The lock out was lifted with effect from 22nd January, 1974. The Union alleged lock out again w.e.f. 2nd May, 1974 whereas the management reported commencement of strike by the workers from that date. The management closed the mine w.e.f. 28th June, 1974 after due notice of 60 days. The number of workers affected by the closure is stated to be 1621. Majority of workers are reported to be adivasi.

(c) In view of the closure of the mine, the current factual position regarding observance of the safety rules and provisions of statutory welfare facilities can be ascertained only after the mine reopens.

Maltreatment of a Ward Sahayika of Pathankot Military Hospital

3980. SHRI R V. BADE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some J.C.Os. of the Military Hospital, Pathankot, maltreated a Ward Sahayika (lady employee) of the same Hospital and beat her on the 5th June, 1974;

(b) whether Government received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiries and the action taken against the J.C Os.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B PATNAIK): (a) to (c). On receipt of information regarding the alleged incident on the 5th of June, 1974, the Officer Commanding of the Military Hospital, Pathankot, ordered a Unit Court of Enquiry. Copies of the complaint regarding the alleged incident were also received by the Government. The Court of Enquiry ordered by the Officer Commanding revealed that on the 5th June, 1974, the Ward Sahayika went to the Tradesmen's Shop of the Hospital, accompanied by another Ward Sahayika. Some other civilian employees of the Hospital were also present in the Shop at that time. The J.C.O.

in-charge of the Shop, on failing to get a satisfactory answer for the presence of a large number of civilian employees who were not on duty in the Shop, ordered them to leave. The Ward Sahayika, answered back to the J.C.O. refusing to leave the Shop. Thereupon, the J.C.O. caught her by the arm in anger, to make her leave. There was no *mala fide* intention on the part of the J.C.O. The Officer Commanding of the Hospital has recommended that the J.C.O. be posted out; and action is being taken to transfer him elsewhere.

Applicability of E.P.F. Act

3981. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether several important industries have not been brought within the ambit of the Employees Provident Fund Act and the employees of these industries are being deprived of the benefit of the Employees Provident Funds Scheme; and

(b) whether Government propse to examine the class of industries and establishments and cover them up under the Employees Provident Fund Act on a time-bound programme as also to amend the provisions of the Act for applicability from 20 to 10 employees and for entitlement of the completion of 240 days to 90 days only?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund Authorities have intimated as under:—

(a) and (b) All important industries have been brought under the purview of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. The proposal to apply the Act to the establishments employing less than 20 persons is under consideration. A Notification reducing the eligibility period for membership of the Fund from "240 days during a period of 12 months or less" to "120 days within a period of six months or less" has been issued.

Revision of pay according to Third Pay Commission's Report in E.P.F.O.

3982. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation and Union of the Employees Provident Fund staff have given advice not to work for Compulsory Deposit Scheme introduced recently unless the revision of pay is done according to the Third Pay Commission report;

(b) whether in almost all the Government departments and undertakings the Third Pay Commisison's recommendations have been implemented but the staff and employees of the E.P.F. Organisation have not been given the benefit of the revision of pay scales by creating procedural difficulties; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). It is not known whether the Third Pay Commission's recommendations have been implemented in all the Government Departments and Undertakings. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, have recommended higher scales of pay for its employees and the same are at present under the consideration of the Government. The All India Employees' Provident Fund Staff Federation and certain staff unions in the Regional Offices have intimated that they have decided not to touch any work relating to the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposits) Ordinance, 1974, till the revised pay scales as approved by the Board are implemented.

Rest Houses near Regional Offices of E.P.F.O.

3983. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether to have Rest Homes or Houses or Community Halls in and around Regional Offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in important cities or tourist places was under consideration long back and if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(b) whether the above proposal is still under consideration and whether Government propose to get the matter examined by a Committee, headed by a senior officer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:—

(a) No.

(b) Not at present.

Production Capacity of Captive Coal Mines of TISCO

3984. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the average production capacity of captive coal mines of TISCO;

(b) whether Tatas are fully utilising these captive mines for the purposes of meeting coal shortage in TISCO; and

(c) if so, the quantity of coal used by TISCO from these mines during the last three years and also the quantity of coal supplied to TISCO from other resources during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. have collieries in the Jharia coal fields and West Bokaro Ltd, now a subsidiary of TISCO, has a colliery in the district of Hazaribagh in Bihar. The average annual capacities of these two groups of collieries are as under:—

(i) TISCO collieries in Jharia.	1·6 million tonnes of raw coal
(ii) West Bokaro .	0·52 million tonnes of raw coal

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The quantities of coking coal supplied to TISCO Works from their captive mines and outside sources are as follows:—

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
	(figures in tonnes)		
(i) From *Captive Sources*:			
Washed Coal:			
Jamadoba Washery	873,913	839,947	905,355
West Bokaro Colliery	316,257	338,192	320,183
Run of Mine Coal	92,191	68,437	21,644
(ii) From *Outside Sources*:			
Washed, Blendable and R.O.M. Coals . . .	730,132	722,474	470,600
	2,012,493	1,969,050	1,717,782

In addition to the above, approximately 3,60,000 tonnes of hard coke per annum are obtained by TISCO from Sijua coke ovens, the Beehive ovens of BCCL and Bokaro Steel, to meet their requirements of Blast Fornace coke.

Blackmarketing in Steel

3985. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:
SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported in the press on the 12th August, 1974 that about 300 firms in four States and two Union Territories in Northern India have been either debarred from getting steel allotment for five years or their licences suspended after it was detected that they were selling their quota in blackmarket, if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether the office of the Regional Iron and Steel Controller intends to launch a drive to detect misuse of steel quota in other States as also to stop the steel material being sold in blackmarket; and

(c) the punishment Government propose to inflict to stop its blackmarket?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA). (a) Yes, Sir; the report is substantially correct.

(b) There are six Regional Offices of the Iron & Steel Controller at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Hyderabad and Kanpur. Appropriate action is being taken by the Regional Iron and Steel Controllers within their respective regions.

(c) Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956 has been amended to provide specifically that the use of steel for any purpose other than that for which it is allotted or applied for is a violation of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order and a penal offence punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Wherever misutilisation is proved, action will be taken under the provisions of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order and/or the Essential Commodities Act.

New Unit of Bharat Electronics Limited

3966. SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Electronics Limited have any plans of setting up a new unit;

(b) if so, the proposed location thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the backward area of Maharashtra State is being considered as a possible location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Bharat Electronics Limited have no concrete plan at present to set up a new unit.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of a New Export Quality Wrist Watch "Chinar" by HMT Srinagar

3987. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited has started production

of a new export quality Wrist-watch, named "Chinar" at Zainkot near Srinagar;

(b) the approximate cost of the watch;

(c) whether Government hopes that it will prove durable as compared to the watches of other countries; and

(d) the approximate foreign exchange Government expect to earn as a result of its sale in foreign countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) and (b). HMT's watch unit at Srinagar has been manufacturing hand-wound Wrist Watches with the brand name "Chinar". This watch is priced Rs. 140 exclusive of taxes and quality-wise in the same category as other HMT watches.

(c) Yes, Sir. It will, however, be not correct to say that these watches are designed primarily for export.

(d) No estimate can be made as these watches have so far not been exported. In the context of sizeable unsatisfied local demand no special export effort is also envisaged.

Alleged Allegations against a Private Transport Firm

3988. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Resettlement had recommended the case of a private firm for award of contract for operating transport service for domestic passengers at Palam airport;

(b) whether the Director of the firm was black-listed;

(c) if so, the reasons (i) for black-listing and (ii) for recommending him for award of contract thereafter;

(d) whether it is alleged that some Army Officers had used their offices in favour of the firm getting the contract; and

(e) if so, whether any inquiry is proposed to be made to find out the veracity of the allegations

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) After the I.A.C. had taken a decision to stop their passenger coach service between Delhi and Palam Airport, the International Airport Authority of India (IAAI) decided to conclude a contract with a private transport contractor for the benefit of Airline passengers. At that stage, the Directorate General Resettlement, whose responsibility it is to sponsor ex-servicemen for employment and to advise/guide them into self-employment avenues, advised a group of selected ex-servicemen to form a private limited company for the proposed work and recommended the Company so formed to the IAAI. They were considered by the International Airport Authority of India and awarded contract for operating the passenger coach service between Palam Airport and Delhi for domestic flights.

(b) No Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As stated in (a) above

(e) Does not arise.

Eats Resettlement Project

3989. SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sponsored a Resettlement Project called "EATS";

(b) if not, whether the EATS is getting advantages as a sponsored project; and

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether the project is in the private hands and if so, the control being exercised by his Ministry over that project including its monetary aspect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) EATS is a venture of ex-servicemen registered as a private limited company under the seal of Registrar of Companies, for Delhi and Haryana. The Director General of Re-settlement in the Ministry generally oversees the functioning of the Company including its monetary aspects in the light of its main objectives.

Sale of Zetor, T-25 and Swaraj Tractors

3990. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY
be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers separately of Zetor, T-25 and Swaraj Tractors sold during the year 1973 and further numbers sold from beginning of 1974 till the end of April, 1974;

(b) the number of orders separately for the same tractors pending with postal deposit of Rupees 1000.00 upto the end of June, 1974; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the pending demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The required information is given as under

Name of the model tractor	Tractors sold during		Pending orders as on 30-6-1974
	1973	1974 (upto 30-4-74)	
1. Zetor-2511 (25 HP)	1,871	2,129	7,622
2. T-25 (25 HP)	1,066	166	1,100
3. Swaraj-724 (23 6 HP)	Nil	11	458

(c) All assistance including allowance of import of components has been accorded by the Government. Production of HMT tractors will go up substantially and is expected to reach the level of 7000 tractors during the financial year 1974-75. The two other makes of tractors will also significantly improve production to substantially meet pending demand.

बिहार में नकली दवाइयां

3991. श्री घनश्याह प्रधान : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान 6 अगस्त, 1974 के अंग्रेजी के दैनिक समाचारपत्र में बिहार में नकली दवाइयों के बारे में प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध मे अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ग) भविष्य मे और कडे कदम उठाने के लिये क्या निर्णय लिये जाने की सभावना है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री ए० के० किस्कू) : (क) जी हा।

(ख) और (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

अमरीका के नये राष्ट्रपति का भारत के प्रति रवैया

3992. **श्री घनशाह प्रधान** : क्या विदेश मत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या अमरीका के नये राष्ट्रपति ने भारतीय राजदूत की उपेक्षा की है जैसाकि 13 अगस्त, 1974 के हिन्दी के एक स्थानीय दैनिक समाचारपत्र मे समाचार छपा है, और

(ख) उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) और (ख) . भारत सरकार ऐसा नही समझती कि राष्ट्रपति फोर्ड से भेंट करने वाले राजदूतो के पहले दल मे भारतीय राजदूत के न होने का यह अर्थ है कि उन्होने इस देश की उपेक्षा की है। भारत के राजदूत ने अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति से 21 अगस्त 1974 को भेंट की थी और आपसी हित के मामलो पर विचार-विमर्श भी किया था।

Action against manufacturing and Sale of Spurious Drugs

3993. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) the total number of firms blacklisted, the total number of persons arrested, the total number of godowns sealed and total amount of fine imposed in respect of manufacturing and sale of spurious drugs in the country, State-wise and Union territory-wise, during the period from 1st January, 1974 to 31st July, 1974;

(b) the stern action proposed to be taken or taken against the persons engaged in the manufacturing and sale of spurious drugs; and

(c) what further strict measures are being taken to unearth spurious drugs racket?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K KISKU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha

(c) The following fresh steps have been taken for combating the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs

1 The question regarding the prevalance of spurious drugs and the steps that should be taken on all India level for tackling the menance of spurious drugs was discussed at the last meeting of the Central Council of Health held in April 1974 The Central Council of Health passed a resolution which amongst other things recommended to the States that they should set up a proper enforcement machinery including an 'Intelligence-cum-legal cell' which

should maintain a close liaison with the Police at the headquarters and also at the district level for tackling the menance of spurious drugs.

2. Union Health Minister has written to the State Health Ministers emphasising the importance of the State Drugs Control Administration in the State and the need for tightening the enforcement procedures. The requisites for an effective Drugs Control Administration have been spelt out and the extent of assistance that the centre can extend has also been explained. The need for imposing the several possible penalties available, where offenders are caught, has also been stressed.

3. A crash programme for inspection of all firms manufacturing injections has been initiated by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation in Co-ordination with the State Drugs Control Administration.

4. The drugs and Cosmetics Act is proposed to be amended to provide for stringent penalties for offences relating to the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

Short supply of Medicine in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

3994. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state·

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that patent and standard medicines are either not at all available or if available, in very short supply, in the C.G.H.S. dispensaries as a result of which the patients have to face a lot of inconveniences; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K KISKU): (a) and (b). Generally all medicines included in the C G.H.S. Formulary are available in stock except for a few items At any given time if the medicines are not available either in the C G.H.S. or with the authorised chemist, i e. Super Bazar, the patient is authorised to purchase them from the market and obtain re-imbursement In the meantime, however, suitable substitutes of equivalent therapeutic value are immediately prescribed and supplied to the patient

I.T.I Building, Subzimandi, Delhi

3995 SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building of I.T.I in Subzi Mandi, Delhi has been constructed:

(b) when the construction was completed;

(c) whether the staff and other departments concerned have since been shifted to the new building; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons for delay in shifting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA)· (a) and (b). The building is now in final stages of completion.

(c) and (d) The work regarding electrification of the building and the power wiring is in progress. The same is likely to be completed in about two months. The shifting will start after electrification work is completed.

Industry based on Findings of Geological Survey in Kerala

3996. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 666 on the 25th July, 1974 regarding exploration of natural resources in Kerala and state whether any industry has been contemplated connected with these ores in Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD). At present some deposits of fireclay, kaolin, lime-shell, sillimanite, sillica sand and other sands, in Kerala, are being exploited. The State Government of Kerala has formulated the following plans for exploitation of minerals, based on the recommendations of a Task Force on mining set up by that Government:—

(1) Minerals investigations, which include pilot mining and bulk sampling of deposits of iron ore, bauxite, graphite, chinaclay and glass sand, in different parts of the state.

(2) Detailed studies of the known limestone deposits of Pandareth near Walayar in Palaghat Distt.

(3) Strengthening of chemical laboratory to conduct detailed chemical examination and ore beneficiation tests.

(4) Detailed investigations of economic minerals in forested regions of the State.

(5) Advanced training to be given to technical personnel in the field of investigation, prospecting, mining and beneficiation of mineral deposits.

(6) Intensification of research and development activities now being carried out in the State Department of Mining and Geology and also the University Department of Geology under a coordinated programme.

Alleged purchase of obsolete Crusher by Orissa Mining Corporation

3997. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an allegation made recently that a U.S manufactured crusher which the company itself had at one stage declared "obsolete", had eventually found its way into the State owned Orissa Mining Corporation;

(b) whether the said "obsolete crusher" was purchased by the Corporation in 1963 as a cost of Rs. 31 lakhs;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (d) Orissa Mining Corporation is an undertaking under the Government of Orissa who have been requested for necessary information. The information when available will be placed on the Table of the House.

इस्पात के कोटे का दुरुपयोग

3998. डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इन्दौर तथा रतलाम में कुछ स्टील रोलिंग मिलों द्वारा इस्पात के कोटे के दुरुपयोग अथवा उसकी चोर बाजारी किये जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन रोलिंग मिलों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके सम्बन्ध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुबोध हंसदा) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Appointment and Promotion of S.C. and S.T. Candidates in the Office of E.P.F.C., Bihar

3999. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Bihar had not appointed/promoted Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates in the cadre of Head Clerks;

(b) if so, the reasons for not appointing/promoting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates to the cadre of Head Clerks against the reserved vacancies; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Employees Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under—(a) and (b). The Regional Commissioner could not appoint/promote candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the cadre of Head Clerks, because none of them had completed three years' regular service as Upper Division Clerk to become eligible for promotion against Departmental Promotion quota. Further, no Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidate competed and qualified in the examination for promotion to the posts of Head Clerks against the vacancies earmarked for examination quota.

(c) Does not arise.

Issue of Debentures by S.A.I.L.

4000. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has proposed to raise resources through the issue of debentures to overcome its present financial difficulties; and

(b) the amount proposed to be raised through the issue of debentures?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA). (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Special Benches for Labour Cases

4001. SHRI D P. JADEJA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute special benches in the High Courts and Supreme Court to dispose of cases relating to labour which take 5 to 6 years for disposal at present; and

(b) if so, when it will be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA)· (a) and (b). Labour Appeals are regularly heard by the Supreme Court. As the Court has to deal with constitutional writs and appeals, election appeals, habeas corpus petitions, criminal appeals, tax appeals, ordinary civil appeals etc., the Ministry of Labour is advised that it is not possible for the Supreme Court to constitute a Special Bench exclusively for labour matters throughout the year.

With regard to the High Courts, a reference has been made to the Ministry of Law.

विभिन्न देशों द्वारा पाकिस्तानी नौ सेना के लिए सहायता दिया जाना

4002. **श्री माधवराव सिन्धिया :**
श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव :

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिससे पाकिस्तान को वर्ष 1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध के पश्चात् नौ-सेना को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए सहायता मिली है और ऐसे प्रत्येक देश से किस प्रकार की सहायता प्राप्त हुई; और

(ख) 1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध के बाद से पाकिस्तान की नौसैनिक शक्ति अब कितनी बढ़ गई है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) : (क) और (ख). 1971 के भारत-पाक युद्ध के पश्चात् पाकिस्तान ने विदेशों से सहायता प्राप्त की है। पाकिस्तान ने नौसेना की शक्ति बढ़ाने के लिए कठिन प्रयत्न किये हैं और इस प्रकार से अपनी समुद्री क्षमता बढ़ा ली है। माननीय सदस्य सहमत होंगे कि इस सम्बन्ध में आगे और सूचना प्रकट करना लोक हित में नहीं होगा।

Ban on Import of Diesel Generator Sets

4003. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating of a ban for import of diesel generator sets;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). There is already a ban on the import of diesel generating sets. The question of Government contemplating the introduction of a ban does not, therefore, arise.

Study of Agricultural Labour

4004 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) when was a study on Agricultural labour conducted last;

(b) whether Planning Commission or Labour Ministry in co-ordination with Ministry of Agriculture has forwarded any proposals in this regard; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The Agricultural/Rural Labour Enquiries undertaken from time to time are studies of macro nature to study the socio-economic characteristics of rural (including agricultural) labour at the level of States and the Country as a whole. The last study under this scheme was conducted in 1963—65 and is known as the First Rural Labour Enquiry.

(b) and (c). The Second Rural Labour Enquiry—1974-75 is an approved Fifth Plan Scheme of the Bureau. The field work has already

commenced from 1-7-1974 and would continue till 30-6-1975. The Planning Commission is associated with the Second Rural Labour Enquiry to the extent that it had been approved by the Commission as a Fifth Plan Scheme The Ministry of Agriculture is not specifically associated with this Enquiry The technical frame work of the Enquiry has been finalised by the Governing Council for the National Sample Survey Organisation This Council is a high powered body representing the selected Ministries of the Government of India, the State Governments and Independent Research Organisations/Universities

Under the Second Rural Labour Enquiry information on the following aspects is being collected

(i) demographic structure of the household,

(ii) duration of employment and unemployment and labour time disposition,

(iii) average daily earnings,

(iv) household income,

(v) consumption expenditure, and

(vi) indebtedness

Estimates would be provided at State and All India level, concepts and definitions in the current Rural Labour Equality have been kept unchanged over the First Rural Labour Enquiry —1963—65 so as to provide valid comparisons.

Priority for Bus permits to Educated Unemployed

4005 SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether taxi, mini bus and bus permits will have priorities for educated unemployed men in Orissa and other States; and

(b) if so, will the Government of India issue directive to States in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) and (b). The State Governments and Administrations have been advised to earmark a minimum of 20 per cent of the total allocation of cars and auto rickshaws allocated to them for taxi trade to the self-employed matriculate taxi/auto-rickshaw drivers and technically qualified persons Besides, ad-hoc allotments of auto rickshaws and taxis have been made to State Governments towards implementation of schemes for providing employment to the educated unemployed There is no control on the distribution and sale of buses including mini buses Nevertheless whenever requests for special allocation of vehicles for educated unemployed have been received necessary action has been taken

Dealers appointed by Automobile Scooter Companies

4006 SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the names of the Dealers, and agencies with their addresses, given by (i) Messers Hindustan Motors (ii) Messers Standard Motors (iii) Messers Telco Ltd (iv) Messers Premier Automobiles (v) Messers Bajaj Scooters (vi) Messers Scooters India (in Public Sector) in all the States in the country, District-wise, with their terms and conditions, by individual company;

(b) whether these companies engaged in the manufacture of Buses,

Trucks, Cars and Scooters, in the country and their Dealers and agents, are not supplying sufficient spare parts to the actual consumers, and are selling the parts in black-market, at very exorbitant prices and

(c) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to fix and control the prices of the spare parts and take up their distribution by introducing permit system, through separate agencies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) The appointment of dealers for the distribution of vehicles is a matter entirely for the manufacturers The details of the names and addresses of dealers appointed by the various companies and the terms and conditions of their appointment are not, therefore, readily available with Government As regards Scooters India Ltd in the public sector, the scheme formulated by them for the distribution of their scooters envisages that the retail outlets which will be established in the various parts of the country will be managed by those recruited from among unemployed engineers and ex Army personnel, Messrs Scooters India Ltd are at present in the process of finalising the appointment of dealers for sale of their scooters.

(b) The manufacturers of automobiles are not manufacturing all the components for their vehicles They obtain their requirements from the ancillary suppliers who also supply to the replacement market Government have allowed additional capacity both by way of expansion of existing units and establishment of new units in all critical areas to meet the requirements of the automobile manufacturers Government are aware of acute short supply of certain spare parts No specific instance of blackmarket has been brought to the Government's notice.

(c) Government feel that in an industry as dispersed as this with such a wide range of production and distribution network steps to increase production will have more long-ranging effect than distribution control in a scarcity situation

New Captive Power Units by Steel Plants

4007 SHRI D B CHANDRA GOWDA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the names of the Steel Plants which propose to install new captive power units or extend the existing ones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA) There are proposals for the augmentation of captive power generating capacity for the Bokaro, Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants and the Alloy Steels Plant Durgapur as well as the steel plant of TISCO

Life Imprisonment for Food Adulteration

4008 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether some State Legislatures in the country have passed a Bill providing life imprisonment for adulteration in food and other stuffs; and

(b) if so, the names of such Legislatures?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K. KISKU): (a) and (b) According to the information available with the Central Government only West Bengal Legislature has enacted such an Act

Provision for Research Schemes and Surveys of Labour Problems during Fifth Plan

4009. SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision for research schemes and surveys on various aspects of Labour problem have been slashed down considerably during the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, the extent of cut effected on the outlay proposed by the Labour Bureau and facts thereof, and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that important research projects and collection of Labour statistics are not affected by the proposed cut?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA). (a) to (c). The outlay proposed by the Labour Bureau was of the order of Rs. 184.21 lakhs for the programmes relating to Labour Research and Statistics under the Fifth Plan. The Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs. 120.00 lakhs for such programmes. The Planning Commission was of the view that the need for the repetitive surveys such as Rural Labour Enquiry, Occupational Wage Survey could be considered in due course after the results of the present surveys were fully analysed and evaluated. The other new schemes proposed might be phased out over a longer period, keeping in view the financial resources position. No important Research Project of the Labour Bureau, has, however, been affected by the proposed cut.

Gresham and Craven of India (Pvt.) Ltd. Calcutta

4010. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Gresham and Craven of India (Private) Limited, Calcutta, was taken over by Government in April, 1971 as a "sick" unit;

(b) whether, since then, the value of production has declined from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 1 lakh,

(c) whether the concern is facing closure due to non-availability of vaccum brake castings, and

(d) if so, the action taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) The management of Gresham and Craven of India (Private) Limited, Calcutta, was taken over by Government on 31st March, 1971, under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) No, Sir Since take over of the company, the value of production has been progressively increasing as shown below —

	(*Rs. lakhs*)
1971-72	38·66
1972-73	83·67
1973-74	104·97
1974-75 (April-June)— 74	27·15

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Order Secured by Engineering Projects India Ltd.

4011. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Projects India Limited has secured an export order from Yugoslavia;

(b) if so, the value of the export orders; and

(c) the machinery proposed to be exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 5.7 crores.

(c) The machinery proposed to be exported includes, refractory material over machines, coke quenching equipment etc., for the coke oven battery, and equipment for by-product plant and auxillary plants.

Promotion and Pay Scales of C.G.H.S. Pharmacists

4012. SHRIMATI MUKUL BANERJI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the avenue for promotion to the C.G.H.S. Pharmacists in their service period;

(b) the scales for the promotion posts; and

(c) whether there are any separate higher scales to Pharmacists-cum-Storekeepers in the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries and if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) and (b). The required information is as under:

(i) Permanent Pharmacists Grade II in the pay scale of Rs. *80—110 after 10 years service are eligible for promotion to the post of Pharmacist Grade I in the pay scale of Rs. *130—240.

(ii) 10 per cent of the permanent posts in the Pharmacists Grade are at present in a Selection Grade in the pay scale of Rs. *205—280.

(iii) Pharmacists Grade I with 3 years service in that grade are eligible for promotion on seniority-cum-fitness basis to the posts of Store-keeper/Pharmacist-cum-clerk in the pay scale of Rs. *130—300

(iv) Storekeepers/Pharmacists-cum-clerk/Pharmacist Grade I are eligible to be appointed as Store Superintendent (scale of Rs. *270—380) and Assistant Store Superintendent (scale Rs. *210—380) through a limited departmental competitive test.

(c) There are no posts of Pharmacists-cum-Storekeepers in the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries. However, the general question of revision of scales of pay of Pharmacist-cum-clerk/Storekeepers on the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission is under consideration.

*Pre-revised scale.

12.00 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur). I have given notice of a privilege motion. I should be allowed to make a statement. We, Members of Parliament do represent the cases of our voters who include Central Government employees and employees in government undertakings. The Song and Drama Division is also a Government undertaking. Unfortunately, in the case of the transfer of one gentleman, Shri Sushil Kumar, Tanwar the Manager of Song and Drama Division was to be transferred from Delhi to Bhubaneswar. His wife was very sick and I represented his case not in writing but verbally, to Shri Gujral and the Minister, realising the difficulties, cancelled the transfer order. But to-day, unfortunately he has been issued a show cause notice by the Department why he did bring political pressure. The office memorandum charged him with violation of rule 20 of the Central Service Conduct Rules and he has been warned that if such a lapse is repeated in future severe departmental action will be taken against him.

Sir, I represent the Central Government employees and the State Government employees. All are our voters. In the House of Commons, a member of the House of Commons can represent the case of everyone and if any voter wants to represent his case he has to represent through a House of Commons Member Here I have represented a case for which he has been penalised

Earlier also, in a similar case I took up a matter with the Prime Minister and ultimately I got the answer from Shri R. N Mirdha that MPs can represent the cases of Central Government employees and Government undertakings. Here, Shri Sushil Kumar is being victimised only because I spoke to Mr. Gujral. What are we working for? I request you to safeguard our interests and to ask the Home Minister, and I request Mr. Dikshit to kindly hear me. You send it to the Home Minister for an answer I will move a motion against the Home Minister if this order is not revoked I have got every right to represent the case of Central Government employees and also every employee.

MR. SPEAKER. I examined this. But it may not be a question of privilege However, I will examine it as to whore we stand. Many people approach the MPs in their private capacity and some of the officers come and some of the employees come.

They approach us and they bring their grievances before us. Very often we forward their requests to them. It is upto them to agree or not to agree. I will study this matter and also what is the practice in the House of Commons and what is the practice here and what should we do in these cases. We should have some sort of a final procedure as to how to do it At present, I am not in a position to say anything. We have to examine where we stand, where the Members of Parliament or the legislatures stand if some representations come to them. The officers bring their grievances to the notice of the Members. After all, either they go to their Department or they go to the Members.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को हम सुनना चाहते हैं क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि वाटरा कारखानेर के बारे में मैं ने मामला उठाया था आप जल्दी मे रूलिंग न दीजिए। ।

MR. SPEAKER. That was an autonomous body. This is a Government Department. In the case of autonomous bodies, the position is different.

12.05 hrs.

RE. PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have written to you I want to find out from your good self whether the direction as written under 115 C on personal explanation has been made dormant or reversed, Sir I find that it is the third occasion when you were good enough in your wisdom to allow a Minister to offer personal explanation without giving it in writing to you as per rules Without giving it in writing he has spoken and it is objectionable During the No-confidence Motion the same Minister, Mr L. N Mishra, and Shri D. P. Dhar got on their feet Without sending anything in writing and without getting your approval they were allowed to make personal statements Yesterday from the debates I read that you had been insisting that he should give it in writing but I am told after the Prime Minister intervened you had reversed your decision and you gave permission.

AN HON. MEMBER: No no

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): It is not that way

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Direction 115C is very clear. It says:

> No Member shall be permitted to make a statement by way of personal explanation under rule 357 unless a copy thereof has been submitted in writing by the member to the Speaker sufficiently in advance and the Speaker has approved it Words pharses and expressions which are not in the statement approved by the Speaker, if spoken, shall not form part of the proceedings of the House

On the basis of this, what he has done is a violation of the rule. This is not the first time, this is the third time when the Minister was permitted to make a statement. I have to go through the drill in the lengthiest form and be subjected to additions and subtractions and then only I am allowed Why this ununiformity in treatment. Sir' Why this benefit only to the Government people and the Minister Sir? How can we have confidence in the Chair if this sort of thing continues? Please tell us one instance where you have allowed the same facility to us You allowed Mr Inder Gujral to make such a statement. This is very bad, this will ruin Parliamentary Democracy, Sir

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा इस के बारे में व्यवस्था का प्रश्न था, आप के कहने पर मैं बैठ गया। 357 में मैंने व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाहा था और मैं ने आप का ध्यान 357 की ओर दिलाया था। उस में यह कहा गया है स्पष्टीकरण के बारे में कि

> No debatable point shall be raised and no debate shall arise

इन्होंने डिबेटेबल प्वाइंट कल उठा दिया और आयरेक्शन के अनुसार जो आप को कल दिखाना चाहता था, मैं ने कहा भी था कि लिखित बयान आना चाहिए था आपने पहले कहा था कि अभी मत दीजिए लेकिन प्रधान मन्त्री खड़े हो गई और आप ने अपना निर्णय बदल दिया। आप से हम थोड़ा सा भी कहते हैं तो आप कहते हैं कि कोई नियम कोई कानून होना चाहिए। लेकिन क्या प्रधान मन्त्री के लिए कोई कानून नहीं है ? क्या ललित नारायण मिश्र के लिए कोई कानून नहीं है ? आप की गरिमा के लिए यह अच्छा नहीं हुआ। यह सब लोगों ने देखा। (व्यवधान)

MR SPEAKER I am very well aware of this rule. He is replying as a Member of the Council of Ministers It is not a question of personal explanation You make allegations

(Mr. Speaker.)

against him. He can reply there and then. He should make the position clear then and there. I do not take it in this light that it is a personal explanation.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप मुझे अपनी बात पूरी करने दीजिए।

आप ने अपना निर्णय बदला। यह पूरे सदन ने देखा और अखबार वालों ने देखा और यह सदन की और आप की गरिमा के लिए अच्छा नहीं हुआ।

MR. SPEAKER: He is sitting on the Government benches and he is replying on behalf of the Government. This was not a question of the Minister's personal explanation. When my attention was invited, I was under the impression that his reply was on behalf of the Government. I allowed that. There is no question of any personal explanation.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Sir, the Minister did say that it was by way of personal explanation and not on behalf of Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You made an allegation against a member of the Council of Ministers.

I told you the other day that in such cases this should be clarified before the Rules Committee. But, when he is a member of the Council of Ministers and when you are attacking the Government, he has got the right to reply to it. So, there is no question of personal explanation.

श्री मधु लिमये: लेकिन जो नियम था, उस का उल्लंघन क्यों हुआ? क्या एल० एन० मिश्र सुपर स्पीकर हो गये हैं, हम इस पोजीशन को बरदाश्त नहीं कर सकते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: I do not agree with you. He is allowed to reply.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I rise on a point of order. We want to know what is the status of Rule 357 with regard to the Minister. This requires a clear pronouncement from the Chair as to whether rule 357 stands in relation to the Ministers or not. Secondly I am coming to what the Minister himself has said. He said that he was making a statement on the basis of rule 357—personal explanation. The words are there May I now recall to your mind so that you may give a consolidated reply that, during the no-confidence motion, an unusual practice had been adopted that even after the reply by the mover of the no-confidence motion, the Ministers were allowed to make a statement—personal explanation This can never be permitted to be done.

The mover replied back to the points that had been made by them. Two hon. Minister had been allowed to make personnal explanations when the mover by then had already concluded his observations. At that time they claimed their privilege on the basis of personal explanations but they did not submit to you any written statement earlier.

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Sir, I am very unhappy..

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: You will all agree that Rule 357 applies to everybody be he a minister or a member. The question here is: does it mean to say that in a debate when any member either on this side or that side is being attacked by a Member of the Opposition and *vice-versa* we all should silently hear? Yesterday, you definitely said—it is on record—that if he makes a personal statement, under Rule 357 he has to give it in writing. But, when he said that on

the spot, you allowed him. What the hon Members say now would only set wrong precedents for the future that in a debate when a certain charge is being levelled against a Member, he would hear silently all the time What is the next stage? I want a further explanation to Rule 357? This is a wrong interpretation of Rule 357

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) If you will check up the records of yesterday's proceedings you will know it.

MR SPEAKER I have called Mr Mukerjee What do you want to say? I am very clear of what I said

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Sir, I am only requesting you to see the proceedings The Minister categorically said that he wanted to make a personal explanation It is on record You then said that, according to rules, the personal explanation should be in the form of a statement that should be given to you early.

MR SPEAKER He has got the right to reply.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE That is never permitted under the rules

MR SPEAKER I do not agree with you

SHRI H N MUKERJEE Sir I shall be very brief I am very unhappy, for whatever reasons things are said in the House which suggest any kind of lack of confidence in the Chair because that kind of expression is a serious thing which requires a substantive Resolution, and any kind of difference as far as the Speaker is concerned should better be agitated elsewhere But on this occasion I feel, yesterday's events did cause certain confusion. You had first expressed your preference for a written communication, but you decided later on, if the Minister was making an extempore statement you would not stand in the way. The earlier instance quoted by Shri Mishra is a little more intriguing if it happens that after the reply of the mover of the motion of no-confidence the Minister was permitted without earlier notice to make a statement of a personal character. Whatever the quality and the desirability of the statement it was procedurally wrong In view of these things having come to light I would not like any objectionable observations to be made about the Chair in the House I would desire that you call a meeting of the leading Members of the House so that you can discuss this matter

MR SPEAKER In the case of No-Confidence Motion the last reply that the Mover gives is in relation to the facts, that arise in the debate, but the Mover of the No-Confidence Motion while exercising his right to reply introduced many new things which were not mentioned earlier but which he mentioned in his last speech and to which the Minister had no opportunity to have any notice of and on the basis of this conscientitious consideration, I think, it is much proper that the Member should confine himself to the facts that arise in the debate If he introduces new things or new allegations of which the Minister was not given a chance earlier it is much proper the Minister should reply there and then on the spot

As regards the present case, yesterday when the Prime Minister said it is not a personal explanation but is a reply on behalf of the Government I agreed to that When you make a definite allegation against the Minister and he is sitting there on the spot should I say 'no' to him and ask him to come some other day?

After this observation of mine, I am not allowing anything I have made the position clear This is how I think

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU· This is a democratic institution. Is it a

[SHRI JOTIRMOY BOSU]

Moghul *darbar*? What does the debate say? Yesterday's debate says:

"SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Sir, I want to give a personal explanation.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Have you read and approved it, Sir?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप मुझे लिखकर भेज दीजिए क्योंकि प्रोसीजर यह है कि

I must get a copy of that."

MR. SPEAKER: I had made the position very clear. He was replying on behalf of Government.

Whatever I may have said, on reconsideration, when the Prime Minister got up, I was of the view that it was not a question of having to give anything in writing because he was giving a reply to the allegations on the spot.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You had made the observation yourself Sir. I feel sorry for you.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he need not feel sorry for me. Let him look after himself.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The debate says:

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप मुझे लिखकर भेज दीजिए क्योंकि प्रोसीजर यह है कि

I must get a copy of that."

That comes from your mouth. Then the Prime Minister got up....

MR. SPEAKER: I a sorry. I am not allowing him. I made it very clear.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है! आप मेरे सुन लीजिए। आपने बाकी लोगों को सुना है, मुझे क्यों नहीं सुनते हैं। (व्यवधान) आप मन्त्रियों की रक्षा मत कीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: There is no protection at all. When it was said that it was a personal explanation, I said that he might give a copy. But the Prime Minister said that it was on behalf of Government and he was replying on behalf of Government, so, I allowed it.

When I said that he might give the copy, I thought he was making a personal explanation; but later on I found that he was speaking on behalf of Government and replying to the allegations, and I said that on the spot he could do it.

Let not the hon. Member put his own meaning into it. I had called him and he had every right to do it, and say that it was not in that shape but in this shape.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The debate says very clearly:

"Shri L. N. Mishra: Sir, I want to give a personal explanation."

Now, you want to convert it to suit your convenience, and say that it was Government's reply. What distortion of truth.

MR SPEAKER: If anybody wants to refute the allegations, whether in the form of personal explanation or otherwise, in my opinion, that is the very procedure to be adopted.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You are changing the rule....

MR SPEAKER: That rule does not apply when Government want to give a reply.

I have given my view. This is my vew. There can be no points of order now.

Whatever it is I have done it and I have done it conscientiously. If an hon. Member makes allegations, the hon. Minister has got the right to refute them there and then.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: We have also tried to bring up many things but you are always pleased to tell us 'Please tell me the rule under which you are wanting to bring up the matter'.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Limaye, I have made the position, as I see it, clear.

जो मैं ने समझा बता दिया, आप एक्सेप्ट करें या न करें।

श्री मधु लिमये : इसमें रास्ता निकल सकता है। पर्सनल एक्सप्लेनेशन बहुत ही सैक्रेड प्रोसीजर है उसका दुरुपयोग न कीजिए। (व्यवधान) मैं जवाब का विरोध नहीं कर रहा हू लेकिन आरोपों का जवाब और पर्सनल एक्सप्लेनेशन में फर्क करना चाहिए।

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Let there be no French rule with regard to our rules of procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu I have heard you. I am not allowing you.

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु : हमारे दिल में बहुत दुख है, चेयर हर वक्त डबल स्टैंडर्ड करती है।

The chair should express regret over this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request you to please sit down. Now, Shri Dikshit.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing you. I have disposed of this. Shri Dikshit.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): rose—

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Should I have to shout to make a point of order?

You are perfectly right, and we accept your ruling, that whenever any member of the House, particularly of the Opposition criticises any member of the Government at any time during the debate or makes an allegation, particularly of a serious nature, either the Minister concerned or any other Minister on behalf of the Minister whom the allegations are made is within his right to get up immediately and intervene in the debate. That is not under question at all. We accept that and your ruling is very right. But what happened yesterday was not intervention by the Railway Minister in the debate. He stood up and specifiagainst cally said 'I want to make a statement on a personal explanation'.' Then you were about to tell him 'No'. But before you tild him 'No', Shri Madhu Limaye at once got up and aked you: 'Has you examined it? Have you approved of it? He did not say anything. Therefore, you said he has not done it. So you were about to tell him 'You cannot do it'. You told him, 'No, you give a written statement; I will see tomorrow'. At that point of time, the hon. Prime Minister and the Leader of the House got up and requested you—I do not know what exactly happened—that he must be allowed to speak and he spoke. Even then I agree with you that the Minister has got a right to speak if the Prime Minister wants him to speak on behalf of Government. There, I agree. But, even after the intervention by the Prime Minister, the Minister got up again and said 'I am on a personal explanation' and you permitted him. That is what we object to. Our objection is this. Personal explanation is a sacred device which cannot be abused by any Member of the House, much less by a Minister, and he cannot take the Chair for granted.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): Sir, my position is, even for personal explanation, whenever an allegation is made any Member of the House including a Minister has got the right to get up and say 'I repudiate it

(Shri C. M. Stephen)

and I would like to give a personal explanation'. This is covered by rules. I quote from the *Practice and Procedure of Parliament*:

"Normally if a member during the course of debate makes any allegation in the House against another member or a Minister without giving advance notice thereof to the Speaker as required under the rule on the subject the member is called to order. However, where any such allegations have gone on record, the Minister or the member against whom allegations have been made, is allowed, on his request, to make a personal explanation in the House with a view to clarifying the position either on the same day or later on.

"When the member is present in the House at the time the allegations are made he is normally permitted to make a statement by way of personal explanation at the end of the speech of the member who makes the allegations or, if the latter gives way, immediately after the allegations are made ...

About the statement:

"When the member in question does not wish to make a personal explanation on the spot or if he is not present at the time in the House, he is allowed to make a statement later on. In this case the member seeking permission for personal explanation either places personally the facts before the Speaker in his Chamber or makes a written request to him enclosing a copy of the statement to be made by him by way of proposed explanation or a gist thereof. The advance copy of the statement is examined with a view to seeing that it is brief and concise and does not introduce any further controversial or debatable matter."

Sir, the position, therefore is, whenever an allegation is made the member has got the option either to make an explanation on the floor of the House or to offer to make an explanation on a subsequent day. If it is on the spot there is no question of any statement being submitted to you for scrutiny. But, if it is a latter submission, he must go to your Chamber, give a statement to you to scrutinise in order to satisfy yourself that the statement does not contain any debatable matter. If the Member is present when the allegations are being made, he is permitted to make a personal explanation on the spot. This is covered by a catalogue of rulings a long list of rulings. Even on his own, not on behalf of the Government, a Member can make his personal explanation and he is perfectly in his right. Any Member has the right to demand that he be heard on personal explanation under Rule 357.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Yesterday, when the House met, the House was exercised about it and they wanted to know the full facts. In fact for that purpose, the opposition wanted suspension of the question hour also. Certain allegations were made and the whole House was anxious to know in what circumstances the licences were granted or the applications made. Certain allegations were made against Mr. L. N. Mishra, who was the Minister at that time, implicating him. If he had not made that explanation, we would have all gone back with a wrong impression and it is in fairness to the House that the facts are stated.

(Interruptions)

Let us look at the pith and substance of the matter. Let us not go into a web of rules. He has done a great service by making the personal explanation and we appreciate your having permitted him to do so.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The ruling is clear. I am not allowing anyone.

Now, Papers to be laid.

12.35 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO MATTER RAISED BY SHRI MADHU LIMAYE RE. REPROMULGATION OF ORDINANCES BY BIHAR GOVERNOR

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) in reply to the matter raised by Shri Madhu Limaye in Lok Sabha on the 30th July, 1974, under Rule 377, regarding repromulgation of ordinances by the Governor of Bihar. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8331/74].

ASSESSMENT REPORT RE. PROGRAMME FOR SPREAD AND DEVELOPMENT OF HINDI AND IT PROGRESSIVE USE FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) on the programme for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for various official purposes of the Union, for the year 1971-72. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8332/74].

ANNUAL REPORT ETC. OF GARDEN REACH WORKSHOPS LTD., CALCUTTA, 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Sir, on behalf of Shri J. B. Patnaik I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Garden Reach Workshops Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1972-73 along with the Audited Account and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8333/74].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER COAL MINES (NATIONALISATION) ACT, AND ANNUAL REPORT ETC., OF BHARAT GOLD MINES LTD., FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 34 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973:—

(i) The Coal Mines Nationalisation (Provident Fund) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 241(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1974.

(ii) G.S.R. 283(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1974 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 241(E) dated the 17th May, 1974.

(iii) The Coal Mines (Statement of Accounts) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 248(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1974.

(iv) The Coal Mines (Intimation regarding Mortgage Charges, Lien or other interests) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 332(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 1974. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8334/74].

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, for the year 1972-73.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, for the

year 1972-73 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8335/74].

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The position is made very clear by the ruling. I am very clear about it. I am not allowing any further discussion on it. Shri Balgovind Verma.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND, FAMILY PENSION AND BONUS SCHEMES ACT, ETC.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English) versions) under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948:—

(i) The Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 833 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August 1974.

(ii) The Andhra Pradesh Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 834 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 1974.

(iii) The Rajasthan Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1974, published in Notification No G.S.R. 835 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 1974.

(iv) The Neyveli Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 836 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 1974.

(2) A copy of the Iron Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess (Amendment) Rules, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 909 in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1974, under sub-section (4) of section 8 of the Iron Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8337/74.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, BOMBAY FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineering, Bombay, for the year 1972-73. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8338/74].

12.36 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CATES AND SCHEDULSED TRIBES

REPORTS OF STUDY TOUR OF STUDY GROUPS I AND II

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports of the Study Tours of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:—

(1) Report of Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee to Jammu and Kashmir, Patiala and Chandigarh during June, 1974.

(2) Report of Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee to Madurai, Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, Cochin, Coimbatore, Ootacamund and Mangalore during June—July, 1974.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): The Chair is adopting two standards, one for the Treasury Benches and another for the opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to bring anything against the Chair, do it in a proper way. There is a procedure for that. I am not going to tolerate the way you do it.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we object to their challenging your decision.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, we were not able to hear the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already laid the statement as item No. 2.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) अध्यक्ष महोदय, इनका बयान कोई सुन नहीं पाया। इसलिए मेरी प्रार्थना है कि दीक्षित जी का बयान पहले हमें सुनवा दिया जाए।

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the practice. They are just laid.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): It is only of ten lines.

MR. SPEAKER: We have to follow our practice.

श्री मधु लिमये: यह छोटा सा बयान है। कोई चार पेजेज का ब्यान नहीं है और यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मामला है।

MR. SPEAKER: If you have already seen the statement you can raise the point. But if the statement has come late and you have not seen it, you can raise it next day.

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : दूसरे दिन हम लोग परमीशन सीक करेंगे अगर कुछ क्लेरीफिकेशन करना होगा।

MR. SPEAKER: It all depends on how it is fixed up. I am told the point should be conveyed in writing.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Certainly.

श्री शंकर देव (बेतिया) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर उठाना चाहता हूं और मैं बहुत कम बोला करता हूं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यहां पर इतना हल्ला होता है जिस को देख कर मुझे बड़ा अफसोस होता है इस हाउस को 'आगस्ट' हाउस कहा जाता है और यहां के सदस्यों को 'माननीय' सदस्य कहा जाता है, 'आनरेबिल मेम्बर' कहा जाता है। यहां पर इतना हल्ला होता है जितना कि उस जगह होता है जिस को फिश मार्केट कहते हैं और यह तमाम चीजें यहां पर होती हैं। यहां पर विजिटर्स गेलरीज में बहुत से बाहर के लोग और दूसरे लोग बैठे हुए हैं और वे यह सब देखा करते हैं। तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब इस हाउस को 'आगस्त' हाउस कहा जाता है और यहां के सदस्यों को 'माननीय सदस्य' कहा जाता है, क्या ऐसी हालत में इस तरह का तो यहां पर हल्ला हो सकता है या नहीं ?

MR. SPEAKER: An objection was raised by Shri Mishra about my ruling. I offer that it may be examined by the Rules Committee or by a Judge of the Supreme Court. If they think I gave a wrong ruling,

[MR. SPEAKER]

I will quit in a minute. I will send it to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. But this is not the way that it is taken up like this.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष, महोदय हम ने यही कहा है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने अध्यक्ष का अपमान किया ह ।

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the practice. But I am prepared to do it. I assure you that the moment I send it, I will not enter the House till the finding is given.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय (मुरेना): प्रधान मंत्री आप का अपमान करे और हम सुन लें, यह नही हो सकता ।

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way you make a point on it and do not go through a proper procedure. You go on like that. This is not a proper procedure of the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): You are more than the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: You appoint your own Members. I offer you to appoint your own Members. I offer myself in the hands of the Members of the Opposition leaders and I will stand by the decision. I go upto that extent. But his is not the proper way to question a ruling.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप इतना नाराज क्यों हो रहे ह ? आप को किसी ने कुछ नही कहा हैं । सब लोग यही कह रह हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री का व्यवहार अच्छा नही है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जैसे आप बोलते हैं वैसे ही प्रधान मंत्री ने भी बोल दिया । और दूसरे लोग बैठे हुए हैं और मे यह सब देखा करत ह । तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हू कि जब इस हाउस को अगेस्ट हाउस कहा जाता है और यहां क सदस्यों 'माननीय सदस्य' कहा जाता है, तो क्या ऐसी हालत में इस तरह का यहा पर हल्ला हो सकता है या नही

श्री पी० जी० मावलंकर (अहमदाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज की पुनरीक्षित कार्य सूची में मद संख्या 3 में दिया गया है : 'श्री राम निवास मिर्धा हिन्दी के प्रभार और विकास की गति तेज करने तथा केन्द्र के विभिन्न सरकारी प्रयोजनो के लिए इस के उत्तरोत्तर प्रयोग के वर्ष 1971–72 के कार्यक्रम सम्बन्ध वार्षिक मूल्याकन प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी सस्करण) की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखेंगे ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, 1971–72 का वार्षिक मूल्याकन प्रतिवेदन अब हमरे सामने इतने समय के बाद क्यो आया है ? इस मे बहुत विलम्ब हो रहा है । यह मामला इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि यह जो वार्षिक मूल्यांकन है, यह हिन्दी के बारे मे है और हम बार–बार यहां कहते हैं कि हिन्दी के विकास और शीघ्र प्रसार के सिलसिले में इस सरकार की मशा अच्छी नहीं है । अगर इन के दिमाग मे एसा है कि हिन्दी का प्रसार अच्छा करना है, तो मेरी अर्ज यह है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक बात सुनिये । आप रोज रोज इस बात को उठाते हैं तो ठीक नहीं है । आप एक दिन इकटठा हो कर बात कर लें । आइटम तो यहां पर रोज आता है और उस पर उन का वही जवाब आता है ;

आप उन के साथ बैठ कर प्रोसीजर तय कर लें, लेकिन बार बार इस को कहने का तो कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री वी० जी० मावलंकर: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल इतना है कि हिन्दी के विकास के बारे में इस सरकार ने जो कुछ कार्यवाही की, कम या ज्यादा, वह अलग बात है, लेकिन 1971-72 का वार्षिक मूल्यांकन आज 1974 में आ रहा है। इस का मतलब यह है कि इस सरकार का हिन्दी के विकास के बारे में कोई मंशा शीघ्र काम करने का नहीं है। तो यह हम को फर्स्ट एण्ड दि लास्ट टाइम, शुरू में या अन्तिम में बताएं कि इस सरकार का मंशा क्या है? हिन्दी का विकास करना है, अच्छी तरह से करना है, उस को यह बताएं। मैं आप की इस बात को मानता हूं कि इस को बार-बार न उठाना चाहिए लेकिन मुझे दुख होता है जब मैं देखता हूं कि 1971-72 वर्ष का वार्षिक मूल्यांकन इतनी देर से आता है। इस का कोई जवाब इन को देना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप इन से बात कर लीजिए। रोज रोज इस चीज को यहां कहने से तो कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री वी० जी० मावलंकर: 1971-72 का मूल्यांकन दो साल बाद आया।

12.50 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CERTAIN CHANGES CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICES

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahmananda Reddy to make a statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): On a point of order, Sir.

As regards item No. 9, I would like to plead with you in the form of a point of order that he should not be allowed to make the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot prevent it without any reason.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: If you read the statement, you will find that certain additional amount is to be charged from the people. (*Interruption*) I would invite your kind attention to the fact that the Express Delivery Service is being discontinued and about 1,600 Post Offices will no longer be kept open on Sundays. People will not get stamps, etc., from these post offices; they will have to go to Telegraph Offices or R.M.S. offices. In many villages we do not have telegraph office or R.M.S. office.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): What is the statement? Let him read it first.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not as foolish as you are. I have got the statement with me. I do not know how he qualified....

MR. SPEAKER: He is the son of a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He belongs to the family of lawyers. They have been lawyers since four generations.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I belong to the family of clerks. Still, I am more intelligent than he is. At least I read the statement before I speak.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

In the statement it is said:

"At present the P & T officers observe 16 holidays per year (including the three National Holidays)...It has also been decided to suspend the working of Mobile Post Offices on Sundays and the three National Holidays...."

So, there will be no mobile post office on Sundays and the three National Holidays.

Then it is said:

"These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum."

I agree, Sir. Let them save.

"Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the 'Recorded Delivery Service'. This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 Paise in addition to the usual cannot allow you..

An additional fee of 65 Paise will have to be paid for this. The Minister wants to make a statement. Nothing has been discussed either in this House or in the Consultative Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow you..

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have not concluded, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be discussed when it is laid on the Table.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Certain additional tariffs are levied. Can it be done through a statement like this? I want to have you ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Whether this is authorised or not it is a statement, It can be laid on the Table. I cannot prevent it from being laid on the Table.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbrur): Unless they bring in the form of Supplementary Demands, through Budget, they cannot impose these levies.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a Bill. This is just a statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He cannot do it. It must be accompanied by Budget proposals.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Nothing can happen without our knowledge.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : जो आर्डर पेपर होता है उस में हर एक आइटम का विवरण ठीक होना चाहिए। आपको याद होगा कि पिछली बार रेल मन्त्री ने 140 करोड़ के नए टैक्स लगाए थे। उसके बारे में आर्डर पेपर में यह था :

"He will make a statement on the financial condition of the Railways."

यह कौन सा तरीका है ? इसको साफ कहना चाहिये था कि रेलवे के फ्रेट्स और फेयर्स बढ़ाने की प्रोपोजल्ज। यह नहीं कह रहा हूं कि यह बयान न दें। लेकिन डिसक्रिप्शन, वर्णन, सही होना चाहिए। आज आप इनको इजाजत न दें। डिसक्रिप्शन ठीक करके फिर कल को कार्य सूची में लाकर बोलने की इनको आप इजाजत दें।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: They are assuming executive power without Parliament's sanction.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the reason why if any member wants to get up to object to these, he gives advance information of the points he wants to raise.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: I was intrigued by this item, frankly speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you kindly correct it and lay it later on, in the light of the observations made? I will also have a chance to see it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): My humble submission is that this item on the agenda is completely misleading. Services cannot be equated with the imposing of certain texes. We could not be expected to make submissions to you earlier about it. What is the matter that we are going to take up? In future, it should be made quite clear that if any hon. Minister wants to make a statement which has some financial implications and which cannot be divulged here, he should take your permission and make the statement. That privilege can be given to the Government. If any item is included in the Order Paper, it should be in the form which could be intelligible to the Members. But, here, it is not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure about the proper form.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Can services be equated with taxes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): I want to know what their objection is.

MR. SPEAKER: In the light of the objections raised, if you have any observations, you can make.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Our point is very clear that your description is very deceptive. You are imposing taxes whereas you have asked for permission to make changes in the services. Services cannot be synonymous with taxes.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to him. Why are you so impatient? You have spoken once.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: My submission is that there are one or two points here. One is that the Express Delivery system which is in operation now is being given up for very valid reasons and we have explained that also in the statement. The second one is that on certain days like the national holidays there is to be a closure except for a limited service in some post offices for selling postage stamps. It is a facility to the employees.

There is already a registered service. It is there. Now, we are introducing a recorded service where you go to the post office and pay a certain sum and get a receipt..

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That is revenue.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Not a question of revenue.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister explain. When the Minister makes a speech if there is any question of any interpretation in case of non-existence of any law etc., his speech will be the guide. It is more than enough. When he says, something is not like that, that is enough.

(Interruptions)

13 hrs.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: If you hear my statement everything will be clear to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are speaking at the same time; if it is for a few minutes only one can understand, not all the time. I have asked him to explain it. Members may kindly listen to him.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Under the existing Express Delivery Service, for an additional fee of 20 paise, delivery of certain postal articles is made through a special messenger. In a number of places, delivery is made on Sundays also. Since no special treatment for handling and conveyance of these articles, as distinct from ordinary articles, from the office of origin to office of delivery is practicable and since special messengers employed for delivery have to cover a much larger area than beat postmen, Express Delivery articles are often delivered late giving rise to complaints. The P&T Department has also been incurring a sizeable loss in providing this service without any commensurate benefit to the public. P&T Department has therefore decided to abolish this service with effect from 1st November, 1974.

13.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

About 1600 Post Offices and about 130 post offices with extended working hours from 3 A.M. to 8-30 P.M. are now kept open on Sundays the former mainly for delivering Express Delivery articles, and the latter in important business centres. With the proposed abolition of Express Delivery Service there will be no need for keeping these 1600 Post Offices open on Sundays. It is, therefore, proposed to keep these Post Offices completely closed on Sundays. Alternative arrangements will however, be made for sale of postage stamps and stationry either through Telegraph Offices or R.M.S. Offices which are open on Sundays. Regarding 130 post offices at present working with extended working hours, it is proposed to keep them open on Sundays only from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

At present the P&T Offices observe 16 holidays per year (including the 3 National Holidays). On these holidays, there is delivery of unregistered articles, payment of T.M.Os, a clearance of letter boxes and sale of postal stamps and stationary for a limited duration. Considering the importance of the 3 National Holidays (Republic Day, Independence Day and Gandhiji's Birthday) when all Government offices and most of business establishments remain closed, Government have decided to close all Post Offices (except post offices with extended working hours) on these three days. It has also been decided to suspend the working of Mobile Post Offices on Sundays and the three National Holidays.

These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum.

Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the "Recorded Delivery Service". This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 Paise in addition to the usual postage. The service envisages (a) grant of a receipt by the office of booking when you give the unregistered letter and (b) delivery of the article under receipt to the addressee. An advice of delivery can also be obtained by the sender on payment of an additional fee of 15 Paise. The service is expected to be utilised by the public as an alternative to the comparatively costlier Registered Service which costs Rs. 1.25 (and 15 Paise for acknowledgement). The service will be initially on an experimental basis and its continuance will be reviewed after a year.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One by one. I shall hear you all.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My objection is this. The decision is that all post offices with the exception of a very few post offices will remain closed on three National Holidays.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, we are not discussing the statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It has already been decided to suspend the working of the mobile post offices on Sundays and National Holidays. Mobile post offices were introduced after a great deal of discussion here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. You are discussing this statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My specific objection to this matter is this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall hear you. Let me clarify the position. I am not stopping you. We are only laying a certain paper. Mr. Limaye, you want to raise a certain point. Please listen to me. Let me clarify the position. The Minister is laying a certain paper on the Table of the House. This is the business. As far as I understand there are two aspects of the statement—one is the decision of the Government to reorganise the postal services—this is completely under his jurisdiction and ambit and he passes on that information to the House. There cannot be any discussion on that. The only sting is in the tail, as far as I can see. On this perhaps all of you are exercised that he has also sought to introduce or has introduced and he is only making an announcement that a new service is to be set afoot for which certain special charges are to be made. And, your objection as far as I can understand is that this is some kind of a taxation by the backdoor. This is not my opinion. I shall come to that later whether it is or it not a taxation. But, if you have any objection on that, you will confine yourself to that point but do not go into all other things that you have mentioned. Please conclude.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is what is stated in the statement. I quote:

"Taking into account the need felt by the public for a service under which articles can be posted and delivered under receipt, Government have decided to introduce a new service to be called the "Recorded Delivery Service". This service will be available for all classes of unregistered articles except parcels on payment of a fee of 65 paise in addition to the usual postage."

When he says 'in addition to the usual postage', this is an additional revenue. He has not informed the House as to what he is likely to get out of that system.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made that point. The point is very clear to me. I am not as wise as Shri Mahajan but I can understand you.

SHRI S M. BANERJEE: Let me complete it. The service envisages (a) grant a receipt by the office of booking and (b) delivery of the article under receipt to the addressee. An advice of delivery can also be obtained by the sender on payment of an additional fee of 15 Paise.

My basic objection is it an additional revenue. This service will be initially on an experimental basis and its continuation will be reviewed.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, here is a glaring instance as to how Government want to curb the power of Parliament by issuing executive order. The Government has stealthily entered four new services and curtailed old services and levying of charges will mean making provision for additional revenue for the Consolidated Fund of India. I condemn this trickkery. The Minister should not be allowed to make the statement.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सवेरे जब मैंने यह कार्यसूची देखी तो मैं सोच रहा था कि श्री ब्रह्मानन्द रेड्डी

[श्री मधु लिमये]

आज कौन सा वक्तव्य देने जा रहे हैं और चूंकि मैं ने रेलवे मिनिस्टर के बयान के बारे में यह देखा था—आइटम में लिखा था—

The other day Railway Minister came to make a statement, but he increased the fares and freights by Rs. 140 crores.

लेकिन उस में ब 140 करोड़ रुपये टैक्सेशन प्रपोजल्ज लेकर आये। इस लिए इसके बारे में भी मुझे शक था। इस लिए मेरा पहला मुद्दा यह है कि अगर इन को यह बयान देना था तो यह आइटम इस तरह से लिखा जाना चाहिये था—

"Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy to make a statement regarding introduction of certain changes in postal services linked to the payment of additional fees.

जो इस का करैक्ट डिस्क्रिप्शन होता।

मेरा दूसरा मुद्दा टैक्सेशन वाला है—अगर यह सूचना हम लोगों को कार्यसूची में मिल जाती तो आज हम तैयारी कर के आते। मैं बिना तैयारी के मुंह नहीं खोलना चाहता हूं। इस लिये मैं चाहता हूं कि इन को आज इजाजत न दीजिए। करैक्ट डिस्क्रिप्शन लिख कर ये कल इस को लेकर आयें। फिर टैक्सेशन के बारे में हम को क्या कहना है, सब कुछ देख कर कल हम लोग आयेंगे। इस तरह से इस को चाहे चालाकी कहिये, डिसेप्शन कहिये—यह सदन को ठगने का प्रयास है।

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): Sir, there is basic distinction between a fee and a taxation proposal. A fee is always put on the services rendered. A taxation proposal has no relation to the services rendered. Sir, the proposal that has been made by the Minister is merely regarding a new service.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Sir, I shall be very brief. I do not agree with my friend, Shri Limaye, that this is a matter merely of a verbal manner as to the kind of a statement which should be made. I fear this is again a surreptitious use of the Government power by saving some money in certain services and collecting some more money by the introduction of additional services which would imply income and expenditure. The Government is tinkering with the Consolidated Funds of India without giving proper notice to this House. That is why, as Mr. Bosu pointed out, it goes to the root of the matter. Government should proceed better. Repeatedly we find the Law Ministry and other Ministries not coordinating their efforts. It gives us no pleasure to have to hold up the work of the House in this fashion, but we have to do it because it does seem that even in a small way, certain things are being done which mean tinkering with the Consolidated Fund of India. They have already given us a list of supplementary Demands and that sort of thing, they could have done this in a different kind of way and done their homework a little better than they have done. But the Law Ministry and the other Ministries under the leadership of their great Prime Minister are operating in a fashion which is completely indifferent to the parliamentary character of our Government.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: On a first reading, I had the impression that this statement was only a facade for raising taxes or for raising resources. But I do find from the statement that has been read out by the hon. Minister that the predominant objective of it is the reorganisation of services and as a byproduct certain savings emerge. I have absolutely no doubt about that. The predominant objective is not to raise resources. So, I should think that there cannot be much objection taken to his making a statement of the kind that he has made today. But the only point

is whether the House should not have been taken into confidence about the nature of the statement that he was going to make today. The House could not know the exact nature of the statement that he was going to make. Even if it involves a slight amount, an amount which is not very considerable....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU. It may be anything, even one paisa; what does it matter?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I am saying that even if it amounted to a very small amount, he should have made it clear that this was also the implication of the statement that he was going to make. Otherwise, the House would not be put in a position to judge the statement properly and to make up its own mind about the statement that he is making today.

It is now a very valid point that the Consolidated Fund of India is also involved in this; there is going to be a change in the Consolidated Fund of India to some extent. So, it becomes an additional responsibility for the House to look into it a little more closely.

श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी : (शाजापुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कार्यसूची के आइटम 9 में जो लिखा गया है, जैसा मधु लिमये जी ने कहा है—उस से पूर्ण बोध नहीं होता है। मन्त्री महोदय अपनी सेवा को सुधारना चाहते हैं, यह ठीक है, लेकिन इन दिनों में डाक-सेवा का काम बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ा है। ऐसी स्थिति में रविवार के दिन सैकड़ों डाक कार्यालय बन्द रहेंगे, तो इस से 35 लाख रुपये का लाभ होगा, परन्तु जनता को बहुत कठिनाई हो जायेगी। साथ ही साथ जो नई सेवा चालू करने जा रहे हैं उस की फीस बढ़ा कर 65 पैसा कर रहे हैं। ये सब मामले ऐसे हैं जिन को इस सदन की अनुमति से करना चाहिये, उस के बिना करना उचित नहीं होगा।

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I am very sorry that this very honest attempt at reducing....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They say that the road to hell is paved with good, honest, intentions.

SHRI K. BRAHMNANDA REDDY:.. expenditure is not appreciated by hon. friends. The point is this. Generally, when a Department like the P & T Department offers services to the public, they will have to watch what changes have become necessary, what the reaction of the public is to any service ...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How is it relevant?

SHRI K. BRAHMNANDAN REDDY: Absolutely relevant.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is npt. relevant at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us have some meaningful discussion. I have allowed—the hon. Members, and now they must allow the hon. Minister also the same right to reply. He is defending himself, hon. Members cannot object to that.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): When did Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu bother about relevance?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Dr. Inder Goebbels!

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It becomes the duty of any department like the P. & T. Department to periodically assess their several items of service and see whether the public are appreciating it.

In that process, we have over a period of time tested it. This express delivery service is not serving the purpose it is intended to serve. Secondly, everybody in this country enjoys holidays, the national holidays

[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy]

specially. Why should not the P. & T. employees enjoy these holidays?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You employ more people.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: That is all right. But, I, speaking on behalf of my employees, feel, when they make a request that they should get these holidays, that it is necessary to see that they also get these holidays. Consequently, some post offices which have been doing this work have to be closed down. Therefore, there is a saving in expenditure.

Here as you have rightly seen, there is no question of our increasing expenditure. Here is a question of saving some expenditure.

Thirdly, with regard to the recorded delivery system which is proposed to be introduced, you must realise, and the public also should realise, that instead of everyman being compelled to have a registered service and pay more, we are providing an additional facility where it dose not require registration. If I am doing something which is raising the rate or improving revenues, I can certainly appreciate the point made. But here if a certain gentleman wants a receipt at one end and a receipt at the other end, he is compelled to register the article and pay Rs. 1.25. Instead of that, we say 'You need not pay Rs. 1.25; you can by obtaining a receipt at the first end and also at the other end by paying only 65 P get the thing done' Therefore, this is not a revenue raising business; it is a service improvement. It is within our competence to introduce this service.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Points of order have been raised and the matter can be settled by a ruling from me.

At the very beginning, I have said that as far as the reorganisation of the service within the department is concerned, it is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Government and they can do it any way they like. It is only when something goes wrong that we can criticise them. If they reorganise the services with a view to improving the public service and they come before the House and pass on the information, we should be happy with it. But, as I said, the only sitting is in the last paragraph. We are not doubting the intention of Government to render better service to the people by introducing a new service.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I doubt.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may; I do not. The only point of order with which I am concerned and with which the House is concerned, is whether this new service amount to taxation. This is the only and the new charge would not limited question. If it amounts to taxation, then it is very irregular and the House must be seized of it. It cannot be treated in this way; just information is given that something is done. In this regard, I must congratulate my good friend, Shri Vikram Mahajan, that for once he has shown himself to be a real Supreme Court lawyer by striking or nearly striking the nail on the right head.

Now, whenever taxation is involved, I think art. 110 of the Constitution is attracted. But if you turn to art. 117, they make a difference between taxation and fees. I will read out the relevant portion.

Article 117(2) says:

> "A Bill or amendment shall not be deemed to make provision for any of the matters aforesaid....

that is, within the ambit of Article 110, taxation, regulation of tax or al-

teration of tax or any kind of thing of that nature—

> "by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered,....

Now, I think, what the Minister proposes to do comes under this provision of the Constitution. It is not taxation. It is a fee which they propose to charge for their service which they propose to render. Therefore, I think it is quite regular and there cannot be any objection on this.

श्री मधु लिमये : इसमें 117 या 120 का सम्बन्ध नहीं है, रेलीवेंट बात यह है क्या किसी नियम के तहत यह नयी फीस लादने का काम किया जायेगा और क्या इन नियमों या नोटिफिकेशनों पर बहस करने का और अपनी सम्मति देने का या इसको अस्वीकार करने का इस सदन को मौका मिलेगा ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity. I think today itself, if not today tomorrow, if not tomorrow on Monday, we are taking up the Supplementary Demands for Grants. We have discussed the Finance Bill. Of course, this Session, we are going topsy turvy. I will give you special permission for this. We first passed the Finance Bill. Now, we are going to discuss the Supplementary Demands for Grants; it should have been the other way round. In view of this topsy turviness, I will allow you when we take up Supplementary Demands for Grants. Even if there is no demand in respect of the Ministry of Communications, in view of the Statement by the Minister, I will allow you a special opportunity to criticise this new service and the new fee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There can be a voting on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

श्री मधु लिमये : यह बतायें इनकी लीगल एथारिटी क्या है ?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After my ruling, there cannot be any legal authority.

SHRI K BRAHMANANDA REDDY: What is the legal authority? It is for the Government to look into it and improve the efficiency of service.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There cannot be any question of legal authority after my ruling.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, May I point out that you have overlooked a very important part, that is para 4, which says:

> "These decisions are expected to result in a saving of nearly Rs. 35 lakhs per annum"

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why should you object to that?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am not objecting My question is. why is it that this is not reflected in the Budget? Whenever we talk about revenue and whenever there is saving of expenditure also, this House is entitled to know the details. Sir, this is not the way.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have an opportunity.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No Sir. Whenever we dispute the revenue, whenever we question the Government's attitude in respect of fresh levies, we are equally entitled to know the details of the savings that they have made and its repercussions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have an opportunity.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, Sir. It applies equally to revenue as well as expenditure. They have said that there will be a saving of nearly

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

Rs. 35 lakhs and they have chosen not to reflect it in the Budget. Therefore, both the things are essential. You should revise your ruling. Otherwise, the House will be reduced to a mockery.

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhandhuka): Sir, without questioning your ruling, I wish to ask this question that when an item comes under the category of fees, supposing the fee is excessive supposing instead of 65 paise here 80 paise had been proposed, how would we know on what basis it was decided upon? Should all that not be indicated? And the other question is, whether the fee is not intended to cover more than the expenditure involved. The distinction between a tax and a fee is that, in the case of tax, you are going to have additional revenue, whereas in the case of fee, you are expected to cover your expenditure, that is on no-profit-no-loss basis. There must be some clear indication that while rendering this service, their intention is only to cover the expenses involved. Should that not be a consideration? Otherwise, at what time would the House have an opportunity of considering this question?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: An opportunity will come when we discuss the supplementary demands for grants

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Your ruling almost gives a completely free hand to them to put in a new service and charge for it an excessively high fee and an opportunity for discussing its appropriateness or adequacy would not be available to us. Every time they make any such change or introduce any new service, they should indicate that it is entirely on a no-profit-no-loss basis and it is purely to meet the expenses involved in rendering this service.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I do not agree that the fee should not include an element of additional resources. The fee cannot be exactly equal to the cost involved. The postal department has not been working on that basis so far. The postal department has always been yielding some resources for general development.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Not since the time you were Planning Minister.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: No, no. We are not being made to know from para 5 what would be the additional impost on the community. He only tells us what would be the change in the rates.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA REDDY: There is no additional impost as such. Already Rs. 1.25 is paid for a registered article. Instead of that, we are providing a new service to the public that if they only want a receipt at one end and a receipt at the other end, they can have that service by paying 65 P. only. I cannot appreciate the objection.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You said we can discuss it during the supplementary demands coming up today or tomorrow. If you are in the Chair, you will permit it. But if somebody else is in the Chair he may not permit it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If I am not there, you refer to my ruling.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He may say, it is irrelevant. So, we want a separate opportunity to discuss this matter.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras South): Recently there was some charge of fees for the new telephones and when it came before the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, it was pointed out that there was no provision under the parent Act by which it could be done. So, ultimately they had to amend the parent Act. I want to know what is the difference between that and this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is something different.

13-35 hrs.

RE. MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Statutory Resolution.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajasthan): What about my rule 377?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under the practice it is the Speaker who admits a notice under rule 377. In your case, it has been brought to my attention that you submitted it late and the Speaker has not even seen it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, you can allow it in your discretion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: So, you want this to be smuggled in?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a very important information. On the 22nd of this month there was a Calling Attention Notice tabled by Professor Rao and others. While replying to the questions, Shri K. R. Ganesh, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, made a very lengthy statement. At the instance of the House, he made a disclosure of the names of the three leading smugglers in the country, namely, Yusef Patel, Haji Mastan and Sukad Narain. After the announcement of the names, many Members of this House were afraid that this might help the smugglers to smuggle out of India. My information is that the three leading smugglers, whose names were mentioned by Shri Ganesh, have already come to Delhi yesterday. They are in the capital. My information is that they are planning to leave the country. They want to avoid Interpol in different countries and they are likely to remain in the high seas. This information I want to share with the House in the national interest. I hope the Home Minister will take note of it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. The employees of the Jawaharlal Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation have made a representation to the Prime Minister and Home Minister for the taking over of that particular Institute. This institution was founded in the name of the late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and it was doing very good work. Now there is mismanagement and so the representation made to the Prime Minister by the employees should be gone into and the institution taken over by the Government.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, yesterday I have written to you under rule 368 that the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Qureshi denied vital information from the House on some ground. If it would be inconsistent with public interest, Shri Qureshi did not claim that the supply of this information would be inconsistent with public interest. So, they should not be allowed to go away without giving the information to the House to which the House was entitled.

Secondly, on the Cooch Behar firing there was a clear directive to the Home Minister that he should make a statement on the floor of the House and we were expecting that today. But they have not done it.

Thirdly, Shri Ishwar Chaudhari was hand-cuffed 15 days ago and the Chair asked the Government to make a statement. So far they have not made any statement. This is how they are treating the House with contempt.

13.40 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF PRESS COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE PRESS COUNCIL AND (AMENDMENT) BILL

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) प्रेस काउंसिल के बारे में सूचना मंत्रालय द्वारा जो अध्यादेश जारी किया गया है उसको सदन अस्वीकार करे यह संकल्प मैं रखना चाहता हूं। मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि

"This House disapproves of the Press Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance No 3 of 1974) promulgated by the President on the 28th June, 1974"

वास्तव में इस अध्यादेश का मकसद बहुत ही सीमित है। लेकिन चूंकि यह प्रेस काउंसिल का सवाल है इस वास्ते आप की अनुमति से उस के कार्यों के बारे में मैं कुछ निवेदन करूंगा। इस को इसलिए बनाया गया था कि प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता को हम लोकतन्त्र की बुनियाद मानते हैं और इसलिये अगर प्रेस काउंसिल कारोबार ठीक नहीं चलेगा तो प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता खतरे में पड़ सकती है। विगत कुछ महीनों में प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता पर सरकार तेजी से आक्रमण कर रही है। बिहार में सर्चलाइट और प्रदीप नाम के अखबार हैं चूंकि ये अखबार सरकार विरोधी समाचार छापते हैं, जन आन्दोलन के बारे में सूचना केन्द्र छापते हैं इसलिए बिहार की सरकार ने इन को अपनी सूची से हटा लिया और इन को विज्ञापन देना भी बन्द कर दिया। अफसोस की बात है कि हमारे केन्द्रीय मंत्री ने जिस की सरकार का बहुमत इस सदन में भी है और बिहार में भी है इस सम्बन्ध में बिहार सरकार को कोई हिदायत नहीं दी कि आप यह बहुत गैर मुनासिब काम कर रहे हैं। और अखबारों के साथ आप को इस प्रकार का विषम-व्यवहार नहीं करना चाहिये। अगर सरकार विरोधी अखबारों को इस तरह तंग किया जाएगा, उनको विज्ञापन देने से सरकार इन्कार करेगी तो इस का मतलब होगा कि संविधान में जो समान व्यवहार का और कानून के समान संरक्षण का आप ने जो आश्वासन दिया है उस का भी उल्लंघन होगा और अन्ततोगत्वा सभी सम्पादक और प्रोप्राइटर समझने लगेंगे कि इंद्र गुजराल और अब्दुल गफूर की चापलूसी करो, तभी जा कर हमें विज्ञापन मिलेगा। यह बहुत अनुचित काम आप कर रहे हैं। मैं आशा करता हूं कि इस का आप अपने उत्तर में कुछ खुलासा करें।

इसी तरह मंत्री महोदय जिस सूबे से आते हैं उस सूबे के एक सम्पादक और प्रोप्राइटर ने मुझे यह पत्र भेजा है कि जिस में उन्होंने हिन्द समाचार और पंजाब केसरी नाम के जो दैनिक पंजाबी में निकलते हैं उन के साथ किस तरह का दुर्व्यवहार पंजाब की सरकार ने किया है, उसका विवरण दिया है। मैं आप को इस में से थोड़ा सा पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूं। उन्होंने लिखा है .

"Hind Samachar was sanctioned an electric connection for 9.528 KW by the Punjab State Electricity Board since 1969.

On 7th April, 1971, a requisition for an increase of 26 920 KW load was made to the State Electricity Board for running a new Web Offset Rotary machine imported from U.S.A. A security of Rs. 640 as demanded by the Board in respect of the above requisition was deposited and an agreement duly executed in this behalf was also tendered. The above increase of load was sanctioned by the Chairman, Punjab State Electricity Board...."

उस के बाद वे कहते हैं :

"On 18th May, 1973, we applied for further extension of 25.420 KW electric load *vide* our requisition dated 18th May, 1973. A further sum of Rs. 520 was deposited as security and the agreement duly executed was tendered in this behalf...."

उसी तरह आगे वह कहते हैं :

"On 8th August, 1973, we receivcited a letter from the S.D.O. Elecrity, Civil Lines, Jullundur with reference to our above application that the load checked at site was 74.600 KW and directed us to apply for further extension to regularise the existing load of 74.600KW...."

आवश्यकतानुसार बिजली वे अधिक कंज्यूम करने लगे । इस के लिए जितने भी बिल्ज आते थे उन को बराबर वे चुकता करते रहे, किसी तरह के एरियर्स वगैरह नहीं थे । बाद में पंजाब की सरकार ने आक्षेप उठाया कि आप बहुत ज्यादा बिजली कंज्यूम कर रहे हैं । उस का नतीजा हुआ कि उन्होंने बिजली के कनैक्शन को तोड़ दिया । अभी अभी मेरे एक मित्र जालंधर हो कर आए हैं । उन्होंने मुझे यह सूचना दी है कि ट्रैक्टर की पावर का वहां इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है मशीनें वगैरह चलाने के लिये । मेरा कहना यह है कि इस सरकार के पास कितने विवेकाधीन अधिकार डिसक्रीशनरी पावर्ज़ हो गए हैं कि अगर किसी अखबार को ये पसन्द नहीं करेंगे, अगर कोई अखबार इन के खिलाफ टीका टिप्पणी करेगा, आलोचना इन की करेगा तो या तो ये किसी की बिजली काट सकते हैं, किसी का परमिट छीन सकते हैं, किसी को विज्ञापन देना बन्द कर सकते हैं और पचासों प्रकार से इन लोगों को ये तंग कर सकते हैं । इसीलिए रेलवे के इश्तिहारों के बारे में आप तफसील देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं । विज्ञापन देना, बिजली देना क्या अखबारों को गुलाम बनाने का आपने साधन बना लिया ने हैं मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय पूरी शक्ति के साथ पंजाब सरकार, बिहार सरकार तथा अन्य सरकारों को यह हिदायत दें कि प्रेस के साथ इस तरह का दुर्व्यवहार वे न करे ।

एक दूसरा भी मामला अभिव्यक्ति से सम्बन्धित है, उसकी स्वतन्त्रता के साथ सम्बन्धित है । प्रेस काउन्सिल में यह शायद नहीं आएगा । आजकल सांज एण्ड ड्रामा डवीजन इनके तहत है । कई बार मैं अर्ज़ कर चुका हूं कि यहां जो भी प्लेज आदि किए जाते हैं उन के ऊपर दिल्ली प्रशासन के द्वारा पचास तरह के बंधन लादे जाते हैं । सखा राम बाइंडर, घासी राम कोतवाल के लिए उन्हों ने एंटरटेनमेंट टैक्स भी माफ नहीं किया । अब्दुल्ला दीवाना नाम का एक नाटक था उस के लिए भी फी माफ नहीं की क्योंकि अब्दुल्ला दीवाना में कमिटेड ज्यूडिशरी के बारे में उन्हों ने कुछ आलोचना की थी । बकरी नाम का एक प्रयोग चला था कि गांधी जी की बकरी की आड़ में कसे इनको भ्रष्टाचार चलता है । इस का उस में विवरण था । उस के लिए भी इन्हों ने एंटरटेनमेंट टैक्स माफ नहीं किया ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All these come within the Press Council? Song and Drama Division also?

श्री मधु लिमये : अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतन्त्रता, फ्रीडम आफ एक्सप्रेशन । नाटक इस का बहुत जबर्दस्त हथियार है इस पर मैं अधिक समय नहीं लूंगा ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not preventing him. Under the rules, you have your half an hour, the statutorily allotted half an hour. You can say anything you want.

श्री मधु लिमये : प्रेस काउंसिल क्यों है ? फ्रीडम आफ एक्सप्रेशन, अभिव्यक्ति की

[श्री मधु लिमये]

स्वतन्त्रता की रक्षा करने के लिए। अभिव्यक्ति के कई साधन है। प्रेस एक उसमे से जबर्दस्त साधन है। लेकिन नाटक भी एक बहुत बडा साधन है। इनका प्रकाशन ऐसा है कि एनीमी आफ दी पीपल नाम के नाटक का प्रयोग हो रहा था तो उसके ऊपर भी इन्होंने रोक लगाई और कहा कि आपने स्क्रिप्ट नही भेजा है। आप जानते है कि एनेमी आफ दी पीपुल नाटक किस के द्वारा लिखा गया था? इकसप्त ने सौ साल पहले लिया था। इस का नाम इनके अफसरों ने सुना भी नही होगा। ऐसे नाटक पर भी पाबन्दी लगा दी और इटयटेमयेंट टैक्स माफ नही किया। एक नाटक है गालिब के उडेगे पुर्जे। उस मे वतमान जो ढाचा है, बहादुर शाह हुए है इन सब पर व्यग्य वगैरह था। ये कितने सैंसेटिव बन गए है कि तत्काल इस के प्रशासको के द्वारा इस पर रोक लगा दी गई—और कहा गया कि आपको थेटर नही मिलेगा, आपका एटरटेनमेंट टैक्स माफ नही किया जायगा। अभी अभी एक कलाकार मेरे पास आया था उसने कहा कि मदर नाम का कार्ड प्ले है। मैंने ना यह पढा नही है। अब हेमलेट है हेमलेट के बारे मे भी कहा कि 14 दिन के पहले आप ने स्क्रिप्ट नहीं दी। तो हेमलेट के लिए भी इजाजत चाहिए जो शेक्सपीयर ने चार सौ साल पहले लिखा होगा? एनीमी आफ दा पीपुल के लिए भी चाहिए। तो यह इद्र कुमार गजराल का मत्रालय अमर मे बटा हुआ है मिनिस्ट्री आफ कल्चरल अफेयर्स मे, कुछ शिक्षा विभाग मे आता है और कुछ इस के तहत आता है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If objection can be taken to Confucius of 3,000 years, why cannot objection be taken to Hamlet of 300 years?

श्री मधु लिमये ना दिल्ली में, इस राजधानी मे, आज सस्कृति और सभ्यता की हालत क्या हो गई है? क्या मनोदशा है इस सरकार की और इन के प्रशासकों की इस के ऊपर मैं रोशनी डाल रहा हू। इस के बारें मे ड्रामेटिक परफोर्मेंसज के एक्ट मे सशोधन के बारे में प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स विधेयक की भी एक सूचना मैं ने दीहै और आप के साथ बात भी की है। उसी बिल को देख लीजिएगा और सारे बालून को भी।। मेरा समय आधा घटा ता है लेकिन मै ज्यादा समय इस पर लेना नही चाहता हू। जो मद मैंने उठाए है उन सारे मद्दा पर मत्री महोदय प्रकाश डालने की कृपा करेंगे।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"This House disapproves of the Press Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1974 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1974) promulgated by the President on the 28th June, 1974".

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA). I move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Press Council Act of 1965, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration"

As the hon. Member, Shri Madhu Limaye himself says, the Bill has a very limited object, that is, to extend the life of the Press Council till the 31st of December, 1974. The House is aware that a committee consisting of Members of Parliament is going through the consideration of at the moment, the nominating processes and the various aspects of the Press Council. At the moment I would like to confine my remarks only to this and later, when the time comes, I will respond to the various speeches to be made.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Press Council Act of 1965, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE (Katwa): There is nothing to object to in this Bill as such. It seeks to extend the tenure of the Chairman of the Council and the Members of the Council upto the last day of 1974 because the Parliamentary Committee set up to find out the ways and means for the selection of the Chairman of the Council and Members has not yet completed its deliberations and sent its recommendations....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It looks the Members of Parliament are very slow in their work.

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: However, the Press Council of India is responsible for the freedom of press in our country. Therefore, the Press Council of India and the concerned Ministry's performances have to be analysed here during discussion on this Bill.

To-day, in India we find freedom of the press being suppressed....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Every minute.

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: though their leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1950, "I would rather have a completely free press with the dangers of misuse than a suppressed and regulated press." Now, our government, followers of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, are flouting their leaders advice and they are not only suppressing the freedom of the press but the safety of the journalists is in danger to-day. Nowhere in the world and in no country in the world the lives of journalists are in danger as in India of to-day. Not only harassment and other things but the journalists are being killed by the officials in league with the goondas. Besides the case of '*Searchlight*' and '*Pradeep*' in Bihar, all of us know the case of gruesome murder of the Jamshedpur journalist-editor who was killed early this month because he wanted to find out and disclose the links of the officials with the smugglers' in the Jaduguda uranium smuggling case and he was brutally murdered and even the tongue of his wife was chopped off. Your heads should hang in shame.

Our Minister here and the Press Council of India cannot defend our journalists. Nowhere in the world journalists are tortured as in India. In the democratic countries of the world or in the socialists countries the press and the journalists are held in high esteem. They are respected by the parties by the society and by the Government. But here in this country they are being brutally tortured. Sometime ago the *Times of India* Correspondent, Mr. B. D. Gupta, was arrested and harassed like anything because he exposed link of the high officials with police atrocities against Harijans in U.P. In U.P. there are other cases as in Banda district where the editor and printer of a local fortnightly has been hounded out of Banda by the police because they printed two special issues criticising police atrocities in the district. This is the fate of our journalists in India. Can any Minister, can any leader of the ruling Party imagine how much freedom journalists of the U.S.A. are allowed to enjoy? Everybody knows what the freedom of the press and journalists means there. They exposed various misdeeds of the man in the highest position, Mr. Nixon, the President and they have got the freedom to expose the President of the USA who had to face impeachment charges and subsequently had to resign. Here what do our Congress leaders do? You still boast of India being the largest democracy. If you boast of it, can you take lessons from the USA and democratic functioning of their Press?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a very significant statement.

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: They could take lessons in this case at least regarding freedom of the press. But they do not do it. They do not even believe in the bourgeoise democratic rights and privileges of the journalists. They are killing parliamentary democracy. That is why we say that there are symptoms or elements of fascism not lurking but clearly discernible in the attitude of the Government and the Press Council of India, a sregards their attitude to of India, as regards their attitude to wards freedom of expression and all these things.

They have decided that the Press should not be free; they want that press and journalists should remain tied to the apron strings of the ruling party and monopoly interests. This is the policy which they follow. This is what they do by way of curtailing advertisements curtailing many other things, assistance, newsprint and by all these things they want to harass those who are critical of Government policies and performance.

There are two Ministers of the I&B Ministry They go round the country and make speeches Particularly the I&B Minister Mr Inder Gujral is adept at making nice speeches on varied subjects. He has some ideas and plans in his own ministry also but these are remaining on paper only, they are not implemented. Drifting goes on. Everything goes on drifting. Nothing is being implemented. He himself sometimes said, he is helpless, he has to depend upon other Ministries. In regard to newsprint supply, he said, yes, it is related to the Commerce Ministry. Regarding high price, he said yes, he has to depend upon other Ministries who sign contracts in foreign trade. In the case of import he said, he cannot do anything, he has to depend upon other ministries. In the case of increase of production he said it depends upon Industrial Development Ministry, and so on.

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Attacking on the journalists and press, representing them and all that depends upon the Home Ministry. You must assert yourself if you want to function or if your ministry wants to get certain things done, you should not shirk on the plea of helplessness.

We know that the journalists want to write objectively and to expose corruption. But, they are not in a position to do it as the situation stands to-day in India. I am in this profession for so long and many of the reporters of the newspapers and news agencies told me that they cannot do that and if they expose anyone of corruption or write out in the papers, their lives are in danger and they may really be killed That is the situation to-day a horrifying situation There is no freedom of the press, and journalists are being under the threat of dismissal or are being killed if they write anything There are honest journalists who want to write but the monopoly owners and vested interests and also Government do not allow them to write under the threat of dismissal That threat is there and also their being killed by the persons to-day a horrifying situation. There is no freedom of the press; and journalists lives are not at all safe in India I want to make this point so that the Minister can reply as to how he is going to protect them. This is not the only method to control press in India. Even in Punjab for two daily newspapers in Hindi and Urdu supply of electricity has been stopped. In Bengal also in case of the Opposition papers and press, supply of electricity is being stopped in the name of load-shedding Every now and then in the plea of load shedding electricity is being stopped. As they write against the Government, the State Electricity Board stops giving electri-

city to them. Take for example Punjab. There too the electricity was stopped because of government's intervention. That is because the journalists are critical about. State Governments. There are many instances like this. In Gujarat about 25 journalists were beaten up some time back. They gave a memorandum to the Prime Minister about their grievances. Nothing has been done either by the Home Ministry or by the Prime Minister Lok Satta and Jan Satta groups of dailies in Gujarat are selling and re-selling their assets. There is apprehension that they will lose their jobs. There are talks of reselling and selling of assets because the Minister had announced in Parliament that very soon he would be bringing forward the Diffusion of Monopoly Ownership Bill. He said that the Bill was being finalised. So, they are disposing of their assets in various dubious and illegal ways. That only means that the journalists will have to suffer for all that is done by the monopolists—vested interests. Sir, this is a dangerous game. The President of the Association of Press Photo Reporters was terrorised by the police in Ahmedabad. This happens in U.P., in Punjab everywhere. Their cases were also referred to the Press Council of India. It did not move at all. They did not care for the rights and privileges of the journalists; they did not care for the freedom of the press. The Press Council of India is to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain the standard of the newspapers That is not being done. They only help the vested interests—monopoly interests and not the journalists. These Press tycoons are controlling everything and direct as to what should be written in the newspapers. The Government is trying to control the entire press. Take for example the *Basumati*, a Calcutta daily. This has been taken over by State Government. There is also an editor there. Shri Vivekanand Mukherjee is the editor. The Government has imposed another overall editor-in-charge. An ex-Chief Reporter of the *Statesman*, Shri Kedarnath Ghosh has been imposed as an overall editor over the head of Shri Vivekanand Mukherjee. That means they do not believe in freedom of Press and want to control the Press entirely so that it may toe their line. With these words I suggest the Press Council when reconstituted should be very much democratic elected from electoral colleges of various states, and a democratically representative body with all shades of opinion, that is, representing Editors, Sub-Editors specially of small and medium newspapers and working journalists and other associations related with newspaper industry. It should have a big weightage of working journalists' associations. Then only the freedom of the Press can be assured and Government control could be fought out.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very limited Bill and according to the statement of objects and reasons:

> "The members of the Nominating Committee felt that it would not be desirable to expose their respective offices to any possible criticism"

We had the opportunity of participating in this discussion last time when we extended the term. The key offices involved are tha of the Hon'ble Speaker, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. The present Bill that has been brought is in the form of a temporary measure and, I think, some decision will have to be taken before the close of this year. The subject has been exercising the mind of the Minister and the Ministry and when the persons holding eminent office in

[Shri V. K. Naik]

this country refuse to perform a certain responsibility that has been evolved by a legislation which has been made under the Constitution. I wonder whether at the time when they said they do not want to carry this office of a Committee to nominate this Council any suggestion as to the alternatives as to who else could carry the job was made. I feel it would not be possible for us to accept this contention at all. Ultimately we cannot find anyone else. Either it has to be done by the Council of Ministers or by the hon'ble Members occupying this Constitutional office. I think we have been postponing an issue through this Act which under the given circumstances we are not able to find any solution. I would, therefore, be grateful if the hon. Minister were good enough to tell us as to what are the alternate avenues which are up his sleeves.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to a case as reported in the Eleventh Report for 1972 of the Press Council of India.

There was a case particularly in regard to the late Chief Minister of Goa, Mr. Bandodkar and the paper called *Gomantak* in Goa, wherein the the Chief Minister had stopped the advertisements to the local paper called *Gomantak* on the ground that the paper was highly critical about the conduct or certain actions, or decisions of the Chief Minister; and the Press Council came to the conclusion:

"The Council was clearly of the opinion that this amounted to interference with the freedom of the press and it had reached the conclusion that the Government had been attempting to do this. Notwithstanding the Government's claim that it had been following the directives of the Central Government in regard to its advertisement policy, there had been a clear departure from these directives, namely in that the Government had assumed that every attack on the Chief Minister or any unfriendly comment about his activities called for action by the Government against the paper in the form of the refusal of advertisements."

This is the old theory of the cane and the carrot. If a journalist or a paper does not behave properly, or if he does not flatter the powers that be at a particular point of time, in the absense of these incentives most of the small papers are invariably starved; so, if the financial assistance tap by way of advertisement revenues is cut off, they can be disciplined. This is the old theory. I could appreciate, with due deference to the memory of a very great son of Goa, the late Mr. Bandodkar, while not commenting upon the person but upon his office and actions in office, the Chief Minister being a politician indulging in such things. I could appreciate a paper like the *Gomatak*, financed by India's highest wealth-tax assessee, Mr. Chowgule going in complaint before the Press Council, spending all the money that is needed for this costly and expensive litigation and proving his point of view and getting a verdict in his favour. But I do not appreciate the way the Press Council has given its verdict. If the Press Council is worth its name and it has the signal objective of preserving the freedom of the press, which has been laid down as the reason for its existence, if the press council were to be worth its name, then this toothless wonder, this commentary without its teeth is of no use. We can write such pleasant shibboleths using the symbols of cordial terms, but that was not what was wanted. They could have passed strictures. They could have made use of all the press media available in the country; they could have an

advertisement saying 'This is the way we have dealt with the Chief Minister, Mr. X, or Y or Z, so that no other Chief Minister shall do such things or any other dignitary in office or in power'. There is no point in having an expensive and costly press council in this country, if it is going to act like a weak sister in trying to protect the freedom of the press. I would have ventured to suggest that it is true that we have a fair time to go and a long way to travel before we could have journalist like the two unknown journalists in the United States who could expose the racket that was involved in the White House, of one of the most powerful Presidents, and still come out victorious and see to it that the President of a great country was removed from his office. We do not have such strong press here, with due apologies to the press. But if we have got to have a strong press, we have also got to have a very strong press council, an effective press council. For this purpose, I would submit that rather than postponing a decision, we should take a decision right now. I would urge upon these people holding the high office of the Hon. Speaker or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Chief Justice of this country, not to be worried about the slur that they might carry or to care for what criticisms come and from which quarters they come which may please the one and displease the other; in spite of whatever may happen, they have got to do that.

So I would urge upon them to stick to their office and perform their duties.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A strong press without strong finance—I do not see where it comes.

श्री भान सिंह भौरा (भटिंडा) डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, देखने के लिए यह बिल छोटा सा नजर आता है। इसमें सिर्फ इतना ही है कि डेट एक्सटेंड करनी है, पहले से जो प्रेस कौंसिल बनी हुई है उसको 31 दिसम्बर तक कर देना है। लेकिन प्रेस कौंसिल जिस आशय को लेकर बनाई गई थी क्या उसके मुताबिक प्रेस कौंसिल काम कर रही है या नहीं, इसको भी देखना है। आपने बिल बना दिया और उसमें कह दिया कि प्रेस कौंसिल ऐसा करेगी मगर जो हो रहा है उसको भी देखना पड़ेगा। हमारे सामने प्रेस कौंसिल की रिपोर्ट है। सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि प्रेस कौंसिल का चेयरमैन बेशक जज है लेकिन उस जज को चेयरमैन बनाया गया जिसने पहले सुप्रीम कोर्ट में प्राइस पेज शेड्यूल के खिलाफ अपना फैसला दिया था, जिसके लिए पता था कि वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स में भी वह खिलाफ होगा और उसका एटीट्यूड क्या है लेकिन उसको चेयरमैन बना दिया गया। उसके बाद प्रेस कौंसिल में जो दूसरे लोग हैं उनके बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता।

आपने बिल में तय किया है कि कौंसिल के फंक्शन्ज क्या होंगे। वह इस प्रकार हैं :

"The Council may in furtherance of its objects perform the following functions: (a) to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence and (b) to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with professional standards."

इन बातों को तय करना है। लेकिन हमारे सामने प्रेस कौंसिल की रिपोर्ट है। एक साल में 103 कम्प्लेन्ट्स आई। उनमें से उन्होंने 24 चुनीं और 13 को रेजेक्ट कर दिया। 11 कम्प्लेन्ट्स थीं जो एक साल में डील हुई और वह भी कैसे डील हुई वह इसमें है। मैं समझता हूं वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स और जो दूसरे

[श्री भान सिंह भोरा]

लोग है उनके इन्ट्रेस्ट्स को बात करने के लिए और इसको इफेक्टिव बनाने के लिए चाहिए था कि सरकार इससे पहले कोई एक रि-आर्गनाइज्ड कौसिल ले आती लेकिन पोस्टपोन किया जा रहा है इस नाम पर पोस्टपोन किया जा रहा है कि पार्लमेन्ट की एक कमेटी बनी है वह जब कोई फैसला करेगी तो उस वक्त करेगे । लेकिन इसमे लिखा है 3 साल के बाद होना है तो वह रिआर्गेनाइज क्यो नही हुई यह पता नही है ।

दूसरे फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस के नाम पर प्रेस मे होता क्या है ? हमारे देश मे प्रेस का बडा हिस्सा मानोपोलिस्ट्स के पास है बडे बडे लोगो के पास है । गवर्नमेन्ट आज तक कहती रही कि इडस्ट्रियल हाउसेज से हम प्रेस को डी-लिंक करेगे लेकिन आज तक नही कर सकी । क्या नही कर सकी ? मैं समझता हू यह गवर्नमेन्ट सिर्फ एलान करती है सीरियस नही है और वह करना नही चाहती है । बडे बड टाइकून्स के दाबव मे आकर करना नही चाहती है । आज फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस के नाम पर क्या होना है वह सभी को पता है । आज आप एक अखबार ले लीजिए जो वह एडवर्टाइजमेन्ट से भर रहा है । हर किस्म से वह रुपया कमाते है । उनमे खबरे कम रहती हैं, एडवटाइजमेन्ट्स ज्यादा होते हैं । गवर्नमेट आज तक चैक नही कर सकी, और दूसरे सरकार के ऐडवर्टिजमेट उन अखबारो मे जाते हैं जो मोनोपालिस्ट्स के हैं ? दूसरे जो अखबार हैं, जो लोगो के पक्ष मे लिखते है, वर्कस और ऐमप्लाईज के काज को लेते हैं उन को मजबूर किया जाता है कि ऐमप्लाईज के खिलाफ इश्तहार छापें । अगर नही छापोगे तो ऐडवर्टिजमेट बन्द कर दिया जावेगा । मेरी जानकारी है बहुत से अखबारो मे ऐडीशनल खर्ची किया जाता है वर्कर्स और स्ट्राइक्स के खिलाफ लिखने के लिये । और आप ने खुली छूट दे दी है । पिछली दफा मैंने एक मामला उठाया था कि इडियन ऐक्सप्रेस" कीमत बढा दी 30 की जगह 35 पैसे कर दी और आज सरकार कहती है कि हमे बताया गया था बढा दी और उन को इजाजत दे दी । जो अखबार 8 जगह से निकलता है जिस को कागज भी काफी मिलता है, छोटे अखबारो को कागज नही मिलता वही अखबार अपनी कीमत बढा रहा है और आप उस को कुछ नही कहते है ।

"लोकसभा' का जिक्र किया है मेरे गुजरात के दोस्त ने अहमदाबाद मे जब प्रधान मत्री गई थी तो उन के सामने शिकायत आयी कि "लोकसभा' का गायकवाड ने परचेज किया और उस के बाद चिमन भाई पटेल ग्रुप का बेचा जा रहा है । जो वर्कस वहा काम करते थे उन के इटरेस्ट को वाच नही किया जा रहा है । पर उस शिकायत पर आज तक कुछ न हुआ । यहा का प्रैस कुछ बडे लोगो के ही हाथ मे है, जिस मे रूरल लाइफ डेपिक्ट नही होती । वह कहते हैं कि जो लोग हमारे अखबार पढते है उन की बात छापते हैं । इसलिये सरकार का फर्ज है कि ऐसे अखबार जो है जो आम जनता तक पहुचते है उनको ऐनकरेज किया जाये, न कि ऐसे अखबारो को ऐनकरेज किया जाये जो जनता की बात छापते ही नही है । मगर अफसोस है कि प्रैस काउसिल में जो 14

धाराएँ आप ने संविधान में मानी हैं उन का कोई रिप्रजेनटेशन नही है । सब अंग्रेजी के अखबारों के रिप्रजेनटेटिव रखे हैं । और कहते यही हैं कि रीजनल लगुएनेज को डेवलप करते हैं । लेकिन जिस मीडियम में आप को लोगो तक प्रोग्राम पहुचाना है, पजाब मे पंजाबी मे देना पड़ेगा, उस को आप ऐनकरेज नही करेगे । और दूसरी तरफ अखबारो को जो डौमीनेट करते हैं उन की आप मदद करना चाहते हैं ।

आज हमारे सामने कुछ जर्नलिस्ट स हैं जो अपना काम करते हैं, अच्छी ड्यूटी परफौर्म करते हैं । बहुत से जर्नलिस्ट्स ऐसे है जो अखबारो का नाम ले कर ब्लैकमेल करते हैं और अपना छोटा सा वीकली या फोर्टनाईटली अखबार निकालते हैं, उन के जरिए से अफसरो से मिल कर विज्ञापन लिए जाते है और उन के बयान छापे जाते है । मै पजाब की बहुत सारी मिसाले दे सकता हूं जहा ऐसे जर्नलिस्ट्स हैं जो अपना एक अखबार निकाल लेते है वीकली या फोर्टनाइटली और विज्ञापन इकट्ठा करते है । हमने अभी एक शिकायत की थी मंत्रिजी कि 'ट्रिब्यून' के जर्नलिस्ट्स, कं. जो ब्लैकमेल करता था, डिप्टी कमिश्नर ने एक कोठी अलाट कर दी । हम ने शिकायत की और मुझे खुशी है कि 'ट्रिब्यून' अखबार ने उन का रिप्रजेन्टेटिव कार्ड छीन लिया है । और भी बहुत से लोग है जो ऐसे काम करते हैं ।

हिन्दुस्तान मे वह पेपर जो कम्यूनल प्रोपोगेन्डा करते हैं, ओबसीन लिट्रेचर निकालते हैं उन के बारे में प्रैस काउन्सिल को शिकायत करें और फिर सबूत दे । मेरा कहना है कि यह प्रैस काउन्सिल की खुद की ड्यूटि होनी चाहिए जब कि उन के पास सब अखबार आते हैं, वह अपने आप देखें और ऐसे अखबारों के खिलाफ खुद ऐक्शन लें । छोटे छोटे अखबार जो ब्लैकमेल करने के लिए निकलते है वह छोटे कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ लिखते हैं और अफसरों को बचा कर पैसा लेते है । ऐसे अखबारों को बन्द करना चाहिए । आप को प्रैस काउन्सिल ऐक्ट और कास्टीट्यूशन के आर्टिकल 292 मे संशोधन करना चाहिए ताकि एक्शन ले सके । मैं चाहता हू कि प्रैस काउन्सिल को रीआर्गेनाइज करें और वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स को ज्यादा रिप्रेजेन्टेशन दे और मालिको को कम दे । मेरी माग है कि 31 दिसम्बर से आगे इस काउन्सिल को नही जाना चाहिए और इस की जगह आप को दूसरी प्रैस काउन्सिल बनानी चाहिए ।

इन अल्फाज के साथ मै चाहता हू कि इस बिल को मजूर न किया जाए ।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) Sir, I was hearing the opposition members who were very vocal about the freedom of the press and attacked the Government all the time on the ground that they are pressurising the newspapers to toe the line of the Government. It is very surprising that such an allegation is made that the newspapers of the country are supporting the Government. I request them to name one national newspaper which is toeing the line of the Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is easier to name those who are not toeing the Government line.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Every newspaper today is opposing the Government and the Congress Party. I can cite instance after instance. Of course, I agree with the hon. members in their condemnation of the attack on the journalist in Bihar who exposed the smugglers.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: (Shajapur): What about *Deshabimani*?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: They are getting more quota of newsprint than any other paper in Kerala! It is the Congress Committee Secretary from Bihar issued a statement condemning the murder of the journalist. I do not know why Government is not taking proper action against the murderers In Gujarat the same thing is happening. There is a weekly carrying a lot of reports against the top police officers for purposely attacking the journalists who exposed the administrative and bureaucratic corruption. I demand severe action against such elements.

A point was made about advertisement In the Rajya Sabha the hon. Minister stated that small papers

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: May I say that our rules do not permit reference to the proceedings in the other House?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am sorry.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय: (मुरैना) लेकिन आप तो जानते ही हैं कि मर्मा 21 मैं बर्मा को व्यक्तिगत तौर पर स्पष्टीकरण करना पड़ा है।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The whole thing was very unfortunate.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: According to reliable reports, the small papers get 24.5 per cent., medium papers 25.5 per cent and monopoly papers 50 per cent of the Government advertisement. This shows that the monopoly press corner the advertisements.

Take the speech which the Prime Minister made in Calcutta a few months ago. How many newspapers published that speech? It was blacked out because it was an attack on them. The Howrah speech was not reported properly by the newspapers.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There were photographs of the foundation stone as well as the removing of that by people who have no faith in your professions of socialism. The whole area was cordoned off and that photograph had also come. Further, do not forget that it was reported on the radio

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The hon. Member is referring to the official function. I am referring to the speech of the Prime Minister in another meeting where it was mentioned that the Bihar agitation has been sponsored with certain motives and some of the businessmen formed a committee at Bombay to pour black money into the Bihar agitation One top newspaper magnate threatened that he will teach them a lesson unless the CBI case against him is withdrawn.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It had appeared in the papers. You want it in block letters?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I have read this somewhere

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The PTI flashed this news the second day after there was criticism. So, my point is that the newspapers are not at all with the Government They are not serving the interests of the people but monopoly interests.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Ask for diffusion of ownership.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI. I am for it. This Government is not doing it. That is my complaint against this Government.

There is a lot of criticism about the Youth Congress rally held in Delhi, to which many people had come from all over the country. Did any newspaper give a single column to refer

to this rally? Newspapers contained only what happened in the Lok Sabha Even the speech of Prime Minister appeared in single column The Youth Congress demanded capital punishment for hoarders and blackmarketeers

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE My hon friend is emphasising the youth rally What was the percentage of youth in that rally?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Youth is a state of mind.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI I am not disputing your criticism

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) That statement of mind had a certain amount of liquor and contraceptives

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI The entire press carried the news only to malign the rally The youth of the country demanded capital punishment to black marketeers and hoarders They wanted reforms in education (*Interruptions*) The hon Member's party had beaten the editor of *Alai Osai*, Mr Narayan who was in the hospital (*Interruptions*) I do not know what is the position now

As regards the Bulsar incident, I am not going to justify what some of them did I regret what some of them did But one point has not been highlighted properly Usually, the police resort to firing because it may happen that someone has got a pistol or a dagger and attack the police The police cooked up a story to cover the whole incident Nobody said whether the boy who died was inside the compartment As soon as the train arrived, within seven minutes, the police resorted to firing All the boys put down the shutters they were all inside the compartment. The police resorted to firing and broke the door and the boy died inside the compartment The police wanted to justify their own action They searched the compartment They found some bottles and other things. Is it a crime to keep bottles or other things in the train Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu was very angry about the Cooch-Behar firing incident The same Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu was justifying the police firing at Bulsar He did not utter a word against the police action

The entire press covered the incident A national daily from Delhi carried a big story The Madhya Pradesh Correspondent had written from Bhopal that there were many Jana Sangh people who had infiltrated into the rally with the knowledge of their leaders (*Interruptions*) There was a campaign carried with stories after stories instead of saying what actually happened at Bulsar what was the reason for resorting to firing, whether there was any justification for firing or the police acted in a manner in which they should have acted All the stories were built up to malign the youth rally the youth movement in the country

Some of the journalists have started writing diaries on Mr Jayaprakash Narayan With all respect to him I differ with him politically not personally Various diaries have started appearing in these national dailies Why? The whole agitation is fizzling out Mr Shyamnandan Mishra will agree with me How many MLAs from his party have resigned?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA Where do they exist now? Do the Ministers exist anywhere? Can they stir out of their houses?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI You are speaking on the myth

There were agitations in Kerala, like the liberation movement I am one who participated in the agitation once upon a time But I regret today that we made a mistake My party and we had made a mistake when we had a liberation movement in Kerala in 1959 . .

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That was done when she was the Congress President. It was under her auspices.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It was not with her permission. I was then in the Congress and it was imposed on Congress leadership. Shri Shyamnandan Mishra was then in our party. You ask him and he will explain to you.

Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and his party today taking the same line... (*Interruptions*) I am telling you how the press is behaving. My whole argument is that the press is not toeing the line of the Government. They are opposing the Government consistently. I am proving that now. The entire press is campaigning and all the newspapers are building an attack on Government and supporting the reactionary movement where the Communist Party Marxist is also joining the movement. What happened in 1959 you are trying to repeat. The agitation is fizzling out. There is no momentum. Now they have started writing diaries in the newspapers on this reactionary movement. (*Interruptions*) For them, interests of the monopolies are the interests of the country. It is because the monopolies are controlling the newspapers. As Mr. Krishna Menon said, it is a jute press. The monopolies are controlling the entire press. The freedom of press is distorted as the freedom of the monopolies. By freedom of press do we mean the interests of the monopolies group and their vested interests or the freedom of the people? Freedom of press means freedom of the people. In 1969 this country saw what was the reality and what was the myth. We have seen how the whole propaganda that had been carried out by the monopoly press to defeat the Congress in the elections had been proved wrong and baseless. They cannot misguide the people. People will not be carried away by their propaganda. These monopolies are trying to exploit the present economic crisis. In the name of freedom of press, these monopoly groups and their vested interests are trying to exploit the situation. They want to have full control over the press. This cannot be allowed. That is why I fully agree with the demand that diffusion of ownership must come. Without diffusion of ownership, people's freedom cannot be protected. Freedom of press does not mean protecting the interests of the monopolies who control the press today. The Press Council, on page 8 of their report, has mentioned this. A former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh—Mr. Charan Singh—has withdrawn advertisements to the *Times of India* because they published something against him. We know, paper bundles and vans of Malayalam *Manorama* and *Mathrubumi* were burnt by the Marxist Communist Party workers many times in my States. They speak very loudly about freedom of press and at the same time attack the journalists and the press. Speaking loudly about freedom of press, they make physical attacks on the journalists, they attack the newspaper offices. Today, Sir, freedom of press is in peril or danger. In the name of freedom of press they merely attack the Government. You know, Sir, how a distorted version was published about the youth rally. The agitation of Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan had actually fizzled out. But what was the propaganda given? It was just boosted . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is meant by 'freedom of press'?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is freedom of the people. It is not the interests of the monopolies.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They publish only the speech and photo of the Prime Minister.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: If Mr. Jyoti Bosu is the Chief Minister of West Bengal, his speech must come in the newspaper because he is elected by the people of West Bengal. I agree. The people should know that. Our

people should know what the Members of Parliament say. Our speeches must come. I am not saying this only of Congress members but of the other members also. My complaint is that they do not come. I have my own experience. I was in Nagpur two months ago. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan had come there one day earlier. There was black flag demonstration against Jayaprakash Narayan. But I found the news in the newspapers of Bombay next day was that Jayaprakash Narain addressed a largely-attended public meeting But the fact is that the meeting was held only in a Hall. There was no news item about the black flag demonstration because the newspapers do not want to show what has actually happened but want to project a view Consistently the entire monopoly newspapers are protecting the monopoly interests They are consistently against the Government and attacking the Government and it is because they believe the present government is against their interests and only the Marxist Communist Party is their friends. they are attacking the Government and the Communist Marxists are supporting them and are completely toeing their line (*Interruptions*).

I do not want to take much time of the House. Lastly, a word about the third Wage Board for the Journalists. The journalists of the country to-day are very much agitated over the delay in the appointment of the Third Wage Board. I hope the Government will take a decision as early as possible regarding the third Wage Board because it is a vital matter so far as the journalists are concerned.

The other thing is. I want to make a submission about the Press Commission's report. I know the Government has not completely implemented the recommendation of the Press Commission where they have categorically suggested that the Press Trust of India be made into a corporation. I know the Government has not so far examined it.

Lastly, I will conclude with the comment of hon. Mr. Justice K. K. mathew. You agree with me that he made a famous comment about the newspapers that the adulteration of news is being indulged in by the newspapers. Adulteration of news is as bad as adulteration of foodstuffs and pollution of the air .

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But he was in the minority.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI. I hope the hon Minister will take note of that famous judgment of Mr Justice Mathew regarding adulteration of news. To-day the political thinking of the journalists and the vested interests of the monopoly capitalist press and the adulteration of the news is poisoning the entire atmosphere of the country which the Government must take into account

With these words, I support Mr. Bhaura that the Press Council must *suo motu* act instead of waiting for a complaint and go into the whole working of a newspaper

With these words, I support the Bill.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (शाजापुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय प्रेस परिषद के कार्यालय को बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से लाए गए अध्यादेश और उस के ही आधार पर बनाए गए विधेयक, दोनों पर सदन मे साथ साथ चर्चा चल रही है । वास्तव मे इस का दायरा बहुत छोटा है किन्तु इस के दो तीन महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है जिन पर सरकार का ध्यान म आकृष्ट करना चाहता हू । एक तो यह है कि इस का कार्यकाल जब 20 जून 1974 को समाप्त होने वाला था यह बात मालूमथी, ऐसा होते हुए उस के पहले ही विधेयक के रूप मे ला कर इस का कार्यकाल क्यो नहीं बढाया ? अध्यादेश क्यो? क्यो कि यह सरकार जो ऐडहाक बैसिस पर काम करती है उस के ऊपर मेरा विरोध है । कोई भी कार्य सोच समझ कर करे तो इस में कोई आपत्ति नही है, किन्तु जब पता था

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

कि 30 जून, 1974 को कार्यकाल समाप्त होगा तो उस के पहले ही एक विधेयक ला कर एक काल की कल्पना कर के कि कितना समय लगेगा आखीरी नतीजे या निर्णय पर पहुचने मे, उतना समय बढा देते विधेयक के रूप मे तो उस मे कोई आपत्ति नही थी। किन्तु बीच बीच मे जैसा मन मे आता है वैसा करते है, काल समाप्त हो गया। फिर करेगे। अभी भी जो बढाया है वह दिसम्बर, 1976 तक है। यह भी मुझे लगता है कि ऐडहाक नैमिक पर ही हैं या इस के पहले ही क्या रचना वगैरह सब हो जाएगा ? तो यह जो अस्थायी रूप मे सरकार का एक काम करने का तरीका है कि जब मन मे आया अध्यादेश जारी कर दिया और बाद म ससद का सत्र जब हुआ तो उस मे विधेयक का रूप दे दिया, यह मुझे लगता है कि ठीक नही है। अब वास्तव मे जो प्रेस परिषद की रचना होने वाली है उस की रचना जितनी महत्वपूर्ण उतने ही उस के अधिकार महत्वपूर्ण हैं और मुझे लगता है—जैसे अमरीका मे अभी हाल ही मे वाटर गेट काण्ड हुआ, जिसकी वजह से उस देश के अन्दर राज्य शासन मे जो गन्दगी है वह कितनी सामने आई, उतनी ही या उससे ज्यादा वहा की जो पत्रकारिता है वह कितनी निर्भीक है, कितनी निर्भीकता से वे अपना प्रतिवाद कर सकते है, देश के सर्वोच्चय नेता को भी नीचे लाया जा सकता है, यह सब कुछ देखने के बाद हम को सबक सीखना चाहिए। यदि लोकतत्र को ठीक से चलाना है तो यह जो पत्र कारिता की स्वाधीनता है, स्वतन्त्रता है, उस को जितना सुरक्षित रखा जाए, उतना देश के हित मे है, लोकतन्त्र के हित मे है।

किन्तु मुझे डर लगता है—जिस तरह से अमरीका मे वाटर गेट काण्ड का परिणाम निकला हिन्दुस्तान मे उस तरह का परिणाम नही निकलेगा, क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर पोटेन्शल वाटर गेट काण्ड बहुत है। जैसे अमरीका मे वाटर गेट काण्ड को कोई बाहर लाया, वैसे हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर कोई बाहर न लाये, इस लिए उसके दबाने की दृष्टि से, उस की स्वाधीनता को समाप्त करने की बात होगी—यह मुझे आशका है।

अभी मेरे मित्र मधु लिमये जी ने पजाब का मामला हमारे सामने रखा। वहा हिन्द समाचार और पजाब केसरी को जो बिजली मिलती थी— वह सारी फाइल मेरे पास मौजूद है, यह चित्र भी मौजूद है— उस को काट दिया गया। किस तरह उन्होंने दीवाल तोड कर ट्रैक्टर लगा कर अपने पत्र को छापा और छा। रहे है, देश के अन्दर बिजली की कमी है— यह बात समझ म आ सकती है, लेकिन कोई अपने खिलाफ आलोचना करता है इसबात को लेकर उस की स्वाधीनता को दबाने की कोशिश की गई—यह बात लोकतन्त्र के लिए ठीक नही है।

दूसरा मामला ट्रिब्यून का है जो प्रेस काउन्सिल के सामने लाया गया। आप जानते है श्री लाल जी का हरियाणा मे कितना आतक है, वहा जो कुछ हो रहा है वह हम लोगो से छिपा नही है। ऐसी स्थिति मे पत्रकार आलोचना न करे, यह कैसे सम्भव हो सकता है। अब यदि खुले रूप मे आलोचना होती है तो उस आलोचना का स्वागत न करते हुए जो विज्ञापन उनको दिये जाते थे, वे बन्द कर दिये गये। मामला प्रेस काउन्सिल के सामने आया। प्रेस काउन्सिल ने भी इसके बारे मे कहा कि यह बात ठीक नही है, लेकिन उसको भी उन्होंने नही माना, हरियाणा की सरकार ने नही माना। ऐसी स्थिति मे सरकार के दोष है, जो कमिया हैं उनकी आलोचना की जाय और प्रेस काउन्सिल भी उसको सही माने तो प्रेस कौसिल के पास कोई अधिकार नही है कि वे सरकार को उसे मानने के लिये बाध्य करे। श्री वी० वी० नायक ने भी इस बात का उल्लेख किया है कि उसके जो "टीथ" होने चाहिये, वे उसके पास नही हैं, सिर्फ रिकमेण्डट्री फक्शन्ज है।

मधु लिमये जी ने सर्च लाइट और प्रदीप का मामला भी उठाया। उनके दफ़्तर को जलाया गया, उसके बावजूद भी वह निर्भीकता से लिखते रहे तो अब गफ्फूर साहब ने इन अखबारों को अपनी विज्ञापन सूची से निकाल दिया। लेकिन सूची से निकालने के बाद भी उन्होंने अपनी निर्भीकता को नहीं छोड़ा।

अपने देश में कुछ और भी अजीब सी चीजें हैं।

It seems that everybody has a price of his own.

वास्तव में जितनी स्वाधीनता और स्वतंत्रता रहनी चाहिए, उसमें सरकार कुछ आदेश उपस्थित करें—ऐसा नहीं होना है। या तो उसको दबाने का प्रयास होता है या उसको खरीदने का प्रयास होता है। या तो डर दिखाओ या उसको खरीद कर अपने साथ मिला लो—"फेवर और फीअर"। पहले तो उसको डर दिखाओ, यदि नहीं मानता है तो खरीदने की कोशिश करो, जाल में फंसाने की कोशिश करो। कुछ भी करना पड़े लेकिन आलोचना नहीं होनी चाहिए—यह सही विचारधारा नहीं है। मैं तो यही चाहता हूं कि देश में पत्रकारिता को खुले रूप से अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का अधिकार होना चाहिये।

अभी हमारे बी० रवि ने कहा कि जब चरण सिंह थे तो उन्होंने भी यही किया था। यह सवाल चरण सिंह या स्वर्ण सिंह का नहीं है—जो भी गलत काम करता है, आलोचना का पात्र है, उसकी आलोचना होनी चाहिए। ऐसा मैं क्यों कहता हूं—मान लीजिये कोई व्यक्तिगत रूप से अखबार चलाता है, उसमें विज्ञापन छपते हैं, जैसे तेल का विज्ञापन छपता है, दवाइयों का विज्ञापन छपता है। जो विज्ञापन देते हैं, कल उनको पता चले कि आगे चल कर उस अखबार में विज्ञापन देने से कोई लाभ होने वाल नहीं है, तो स्वाभाविक है वह विज्ञापन देना बन्द कर देगा—क्योंकि यह उसका व्यक्तिगत मामला है, जिसके लिये मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। एक बड़े बीड़ी उद्योगपति हैं, एक बार उन्होंने एक पत्रकार को बताया कि जब तुम खुद बीड़ी नहीं पीते तो तुम्हारे अखबार में विज्ञापन दे कर क्या करूंगा, क्योंकि जो तुम्हारा अखबार पढ़ेंगे वे भी पीने वाले नहीं हैं, इस लिये तुम्हारे अखबार में विज्ञापन देने से मुझे कोई लाभ नहीं होगा—वह यदि विज्ञापन देना बन्द कर देता है तो उसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन यह सरकार तो जनता की है, यहां कोई व्यक्तिगत मामला नहीं है। जो पार्टी आज शासन में बैठी है, हो सकता है कल दूसरी पार्टी शासन में आये। इस लिये विज्ञापन द्वारा धन की जो शक्ति शासन के पास है, वह किसी पार्टी की नहीं है, वह शक्ति सब की है। जो भी आलोचना करता है वह अपनी मर्यादा के अन्तर्गत करता है, इस लिये खुले रूप से उसको अपने विचार प्रकट करने की छूट रहनी चाहिए।

मैं बहुत बार पार्लियामेन्ट का मेम्बर होने के नाते हवाई जहाज से देश के विभिन्न भागों में जाता हूं। देखता हूं हवाई जहाज में नेशनल हैरल्ड से लेकर पैट्रियोट तक सब अखबार होते हैं, लेकिन वहां मदर-लैंड दिखाई नहीं देता. . . .

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : दूसरे अखबार भी नहीं होते।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : मुझे समझ नहीं आता कि ऐसा क्यों है। सरकार को जो अखबार अच्छे नहीं लगते, आप चाहते हैं कि लोग उनको न पढ़ें। ब्लिट्ज होता है लेकिन आर्गनाइजर नहीं होता है। विचारों की खुली स्वाधीनता तब ही हो सकती है जब कि देशवासी सब प्रकार के विचार पढ़ें और सब विचारों को जान कर मंथन करके किसी नतीजे पर पहुंचे।

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

मेरे कम्यूनिस्ट भाई यहां बैठे है—डिफयूजन और डीलिंकिंग की बात कही गई है, में उसको मान लेता हू, लेकिन क्या रूस मे डिफयूजन और डीलिंकिंग है? 'इजवेस्तिया' कितना छपता है, पता है It is millions. Where is de-linking and where is diffusion?

मोनोपोली की बात को छोड़ दीजिये। यह सरकार उसी लाइन पर जा रही है—हर चीज कमिटेड चाहते हैं, सिविल सर्विस कमिटेड हो, जूडीशियरी कमिटेड हो, हर बात कमिटेड हो . .

श्री सरजू पांण्डे (गाजीपुर) . वहा की सरकार कमिटेड नही है, वह गरीबो की सेवा करती है। . . (व्यवधान) . . .

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : यहा सवाल पैसे का नही है। यदि एक ही अखबार रहा तो जनता के सामने एक ही विचार आयेगा। में तो डिलिंकिंग और डिफयूजन का समर्थन करता हू, लेकिन जो बाहर का पैसा लिंक होता है तो कैसे डीलिंकिंग हो—

I want a real de-linking इस लिये डिफयूज जरूर हो। हम तो किसी भी मोनोपोली के विरोध मे है—वह मोनोपोली सरकार की हो या टाटा, बिरला की हो, हम सब के खिलाफ है।

प्रेस कान्सिल को विचारो की स्वतन्त्रता के साथ यह भी देखना होगा कि इसके स्टैण्डर्ड में इम्प्रूवमेंट कैसे हो—मत्री महोदय इस बात को भी ध्यान मे रखें। अखबारो को कैसे चलाना है, जिला स्तर पर कैसे चलाना है—उन अखबारो को कौन लोग पढ़ते हैं, जनता तक वे कैसे पहुंचे—उनको विज्ञापन मात्रा कहा तक की मिलती है—इन सब बातो को देखना होगा। जब भी प्रतिनिधित्व का सवाल आता है तो हमेशा अग्रेजी अखबारो के प्रतिनिधि ही सामने आते हैं। कभी राष्ट्रपति जी या प्रधान मत्री जी को बाहर जाना है—बाहर कौन कौन से अखबार वाले साथ जायेंगे तो केवल अग्रेजी वाले ही दिखाई देते हू। हमारे यहा प्रादेशिक भाषाओ मे भी अनेको अखबार निकलते हैं, जैसे केरल मे मातृभूमि है, मलयालम के अखबार हैं, दूसरी भाषाओ के अखबार है—इनका वाचकवर्ग काफी बडा है, जिला स्तर पर चलने के बावजूद भी वाचक वर्ग बहुत बडा है—ये अखबार कैसे चले?

Otherwise, how are you going to improve the standards? They are already being starved

सब से पहले तो उनको कागज का कोटा ही नही मिलता। यह सब आपके हाथ में है। अगर किसी को मिलता है तो इसमे एक बडे मजे की बात है—जैसे आप अहमदाबाद के मिल वालो को सूत देते है, बगाल को —बंगाल के मिल वालो को सूत देते हैं दूसरी जगह मे। इसी तरह से बम्बई मे चलने वाले अखबार को पेपर का कोटा दिया जाता है कलकत्ता से और कलकत्ता मे अमृतबाजार पत्रिका से कहा जायगा कि तुम अपना कागज का कोटा दूसरी जगह से लो। आखिर यह क्यो चलता है? यह अव्यवस्था क्यों है, यह बात मेरी समझ मे नही आती। प्रेस कौंसिल का मतलब तो यही

है कि स्टैंडर्ड को इम्प्रूव करे लेकिन जिला स्तर पर छोटे छोटे प्रादेशिक अखबार चलते हैं उनको ठीक समय पर और उचित दाम पर कागज नही मिलता । मत्री महोदय को उनका खयाल जरूर होगा लेकिन जो दाम कागज के तय किये जाते हैं उस पर उनको वह मिलना नही है। इसलिए मुझे मालूम है कुछ अखबारो का कि उन्होने तय किया है अपने एकाउन्टस मे जो आन का पैसा मागा जाता है उसको वह दिखाते हैं कि इतना आन दिया है क्योकि आपके राज्य मे उचित दाम पर निश्चित दाम पर कुछ भी नही मिलता है। आज छोटे अखबार बिल्कुल मरण घटका गिन रहे है क्योकि उनको विज्ञापन नही मिलते उनके कागज मे कटौती हो गई। तो मैं कहता हू कि प्रेस कौसिल का काम है स्टैडर्ड को इम्प्रूव करना लेकिन अगर अखबारो को चलाने लायक कागज न मिले उनके पास धन की क्षमता न रहे तो फिर वह अखबार चलेगे नही।

15 00 hrs

इसके अलावा यह जो आप चाहते है कि मानोपाली न हो लेकिन इसमे केवल अग्रजी अखबारो की मानोपाली हो जायेगी। दो प्रतिशत लोग ही जिस भाषा को पढ़ते है वही भाषा मानोपोलाइज करके बैठ जायेगी। आखिर यह क्यो हो ? ९० प्रतिशत जनता जो भाषा पढ़ती है उस भाषा के अखबारो पर भी सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिए। कागज की उचित मात्रा उपलब्ध होने की दृष्टि से या विज्ञापन द्वारा या सरकार की मदद के द्वारा भी अखबार चल सके—यह बात भी बहुत आवश्यक है। (व्यवधान)

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : (अमरोहा) आपने "मदरलैंड" अग्रेजी मे निकाला लेकिन हमने अपना अखबार "जनयुग" हिन्दी मे निकाला । (व्यवधान)

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : इसीलिए मैं बता रहा हू कि प्रादेशिक भाषाओ को सरकार प्रोत्साहन दे देती तो हमे कोई आपत्ति नहीं थी लेकिन विज्ञापन के जरिये पीछे के दरवाजे से अपना अधिकार चलाने की बात होती है उस पर मुझे आपत्ति है।

रेल मत्री ने कल कहा कि किन किन अखबारो को उन्होने दिया उनके नाम भी दिये किन्तु कितनी राशि दी यह नही बताया। यह बात हमारी समझ मे नही आई। आखिर हम यहा लोकसभा मे बैठे किस लिये है। सरकार पैसा देती है और जब सरकार के मन मे ही कुछ काला है तभी उसको वह छिपाने की कोशिश करनी है। कुछ अखबारो को इन्होने ज्यादा पैसा दे दिया होगा और कुछ को बताया होगा कि रेल कर्मचारियो के खिलाफ तुम चाहे जैसा छापो—यही किया होगा। तो विज्ञापन के जरिए से यह जो होता है इसके बारे मे मैं चाहता हू सरकार अपनी नीति स्पष्ट करे और उस नीति पर अमल करने की कोशिश करे। इसके बारे मे जब प्रेस कौसिल आपका ध्यान खीचेगी तो उस पर भी आप ध्यान दीजिये। यह कौसिल जो है उसका अधिकार क्षेत्र आप बढ़ाइये।

अब जहा तक रचना का सवाल है, मुझे लगता है पहले जो रचना बनी थी उसमे कोई खराबी नही थी। आलोचना तो अपने देश मे सभी की होने लगी है। आलोचना होने ही कोई अपना त्याग-पत्र दे दे या उससे हट जाये तो मुझे लगता है वह ठीक नही रहेगा। या कुछ मर्यादा को हम स्वीकार करे। जैसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस है या सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश है उनके बारे मे, या राष्ट्रपति के बारे मे मर्यादा को हम स्वीकार करे। ऐसे पद रहे जिनकी गरिमा को ध्यान मे रख कर कोई कटु या कडी आलोचना न हो—यह बात तो समझ मे आती है लेकिन जहा लोकतत्र है वहा तो आलोचना होगी।

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

अब हम कहेंगे राष्ट्रपति का पद है तो ठीक है किन्तु निक्सन वैसा ही था, उसके काम मे गडबडी निकली। आज तो हर कोई जानता की निगाह मे सस्पेक्ट बन गया है। स्थिति ऐसी है कि हम करे क्या। तो लोकतंत्र को ध्यान मे रख कर हम कहते है कि आलोचना के लिए मर्यादा का पालन होना चाहिए।

दूसरे इस कौमिल मे जो मनोनीत सदस्य हो उसमे श्रमजीवी पत्रकारो के भी प्रतिनिधि हिए। जो सम्पादक वर्ग चित्र चलाते है उनको भी इसमे समुचित प्रतिनिधित्व मिलना चाहिए। श्रमजीवी पत्रकारो मे भी दो दो सगठन बने हुए है—कोई नेशनल यूनियन बनी है कोई वाशिंग फेडरेशन बनी है। **(व्यवधान)** : मै दो मिनट मे समाप्त करता हू। तो इनके झगडे मे जा कर श्रमजीवी पत्रकारो का सही प्रतिनिधित्व हो यह देखना बहुत आवश्यक है।

तीसरी बात यह है कि अखबारो मे जो आता है उसको देखने के लिए जैसे प्रेस कौमिल है वैसे ही आज आल इंडिया रेडियो आकाशवाणी पर क्या चलता है उसको देखने के लिए कुछ है ही नही। ना इसके बारे मे भी जो शिकायतें हो, चाहे स्पाटलाइट के बारे मे हो या जो भाषण वहा से होते है उनके बारे मे हो, जो न्यूज दी जाती है उनके बारे मे शिकायत हो जैसे इतने सालो से हम यहा पर है विरोधी दलो के लोगो का भी कभी वहा पर कोई भाषण होता है यह तो कभी हमने सुना नही। **(व्यवधान)** : कभी सतपाल कपूर, कभी शशि भूषण कभी दूसरे, उधर ही बैठने वाला का प्रोग्राम टी० वी० पर भी आता है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If Mr. Jagannathrao Joshi's picture does not appear on the TV, the TV is the poorer for that So, why is he complaining?

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : तो आकाशवाणी के बारे में भी कुछ हो। इसके बारे मे भी विचार किया जाये, हमारे पार्लमेन्ट के सदस्यों की कमेटी बैठी हुई है, वह इसके डिटेल्स और वर्किंग मे जायेगी। यह भी देखना चाहिए कि किस तरह से इसकी परिधि को बढा कर आकाशवाणी भी इसमे आ सकती है ताकि आकाशवाणी पर भी अकुश लग सके।

इन शब्दो के साथ मै चाहता हू मत्री महोदय अपने उत्तर मे मेरो इन बातो का भी उल्लेख करे।

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I see the name of Mr D D Desai Is he interested in speaking? The way in which is sitting and moving around, it does not seem that he is very keen on speaking Is he interested in speaking?

SHRI D D DESAI Yes I was expecting that I would not get time. At 3 30 p m I have to attend a consultative committee meeting and so, I was wondering whether I would get time

In regard to the Press Council (Amendment) Bill which has been presented before us today I would strongly urge Government to see that it is made as independent as possible, because it had already landed itself in a situation where three illustrious people nominated by Government, namely, the Speaker the Vice President and the Chief Justice were under severe attack from some section of the press and, therefore they had felt sorry that had landed themselves into that unpleasant controversy and therefore, they left the press council Today, the result is that we find that the press council is without the apex body which could take care of or honourably discharge its obligations

There is a difference between the press and the government. A government identifying itself with the press is never worth-while in a democracy We have seen recently how in the USA

[Shri D. D. Desai]

and several other countries including West Germany, Japan and even the UK, the government had been thrown out or somebody in office had to leave because of exposure by the press. The latest instance is that of Mr. Willy Brandt who had to resign and leave as Chancellor of West Germany. Similarly Nixon had to leave on account of the two young journalists of the *Washington Post* who exposed something which was then classified as third-rate burglary as they called it People were asking why the fair name of a country like the USA was dragged into it and why the fair name of the President should be brought into that third rate burglary and so on, but ultimately they went on pursuing the matter with the result that Nixon had to leave But the reputation of that country has gone up much higher But the reaction to it elsewhere is worth noting There are certain controlled presses who thought that the American press had brainwashed the American people For example the Soviet Press in its commentary had said that the American press had brainwashed the entire nation so much so that the people could not see what was right and threw away a person like Nixon whom it wanted to defend

If the Government identifies itself solely with the press or the press is solely controlled by Government what could be the result? It could easily be judged from the comments of the Soviet press There it is a controlled press The interest of Government and the interest of the public are assumed to be one The press is assumed to be a tool and the people who rule the country believe that they have a certain obligation or a certain message to be delivered and for that they are the only competent persons to do so In other words there is no freedom left to individuals to criticise or alter the conditions whereby the voice of the people could be reflected in government and the management of government or the day to day operations of Government so that these are in tune with the publics aspirations. In other words, national interest is not the same as the individual interests or government interest. The government may at one time be composed of X Y or Z, but in course of time it is likely to deteriorate What happened to Nixon was during his second term. We have seen how an individual with an excellent record of public service like Brandt had to go After all, the are all human beings.

SHRI B V NAIK Nixon and Brandt are not of the same brand

SHRI D D DESAI. I know there is a big diflerance but the deficiency is always there What we are differentiating is not the depth or range or quality Brandt left because he had a feeling that his aide was essentially a very faithful and loyal person, loyal to the West German Government and the nation In other words he supported him I do not want to go into the controversial aspect of it But the fact remains that a person who had started with an excellent record and whose public service cannot be questioned had at some point of time to go Of course the public at large did not feel that he was a desirable person to be in the job Even then I must give credit to Brandt because even before the public could pass a verdict, he resigned the job.

We have seen by what has happened in the past that the UK has ethical standards which are superior to those of any other country I have travelled through most of the countries of the world not once but several times and I can safely say whether you compare it with Japan, Germany, Scandinavian countries or the US, the ethical standards of UK so far as the politicians and bureaucrats are concerned are superior to those of any other country's

We are talking of the public sector Public sector means ethical standards. But if the ethical standards of the politicians and bureaucrats fall short of the high standards expected of them, we have seen in the past that the press has not hesitated, if it is a free press, to bring to the notice of

[Shri D. D. Desai]

the public the failings of the individuals and the individuals have stepped down. We have seen that the press has been responsible on many occasions not only for change of Ministers but sometimes change of Governments also. This has not been done. I am not making this proposal from the point of view of any person, any particular person Since we are for honest, upright and just democracy, we should not be worried about truth being brought to light and underall conditions. This is what I would say.

There are certain areas of mass media like radio, television etc. today, which are under the control of Government. The Government may have certain, control, but, I would suggest that at the earliest date, these media should be placed under an independent authority The independence of press should not be less than that of judiciary. An independent judiciary is the biggest asset, which a democracy can possess Similarly, an independent press is the biggest instrument of public opinion It is an asset that a democracy can possess To that extent, there is the importance of this measure and the urgency of taking early action on the report of the Committee of Members of Parliament, which has been appointed to formulate, at the earliest date, proper press regulations so that the press can be independent and it can discharge its oblications to the nation We should not look to a particular party or a particular person or anybody within the limits of India. So far as the press is concerned, there should be guidelines as to how the press should function. Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Press Council is the unique creature of Government of India which does not bite, but which barks occasionally. It is a pity that those barkings are not taken seriously in this country. This is because, the Press Council has no teeth. Perhaps, intentionally, it was created like that, as the hon. Minister has said recently. Because of this, the watchdog function over the Indian Press could not be performed by the Press Council. Sir, it has become one of the ineffective bodies. The Press Conucil was constituted with laudable ambitions. One of the objectives of the Press Conucil was to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies. But, what is happening today? The freedom of he Press in India is a myth because of the newsprint control and because of the higher prices of newsprint The economy of the newspapers is in jeopardy. The economic conditions of the newspapers, especially language newspapers, have gone from bad to worse. Now, the newspapers can survive provided they have advertisement revenues So, the concept of a powerful self-financing newspaper whose strength and independence is based on the public's willingness to buy its news and opinions has disappeared As we know, the Government, I mean the Central Government and the State Governments are one of the biggest dispansers of advertisement revenues. Recently, the hon Minister Mr Gujral made a statement saying that the total advertisement budget in the country is Rs 65 crores, of which the share of the Government is only Rs 5 crores But, how is the Government spending this amount? It may be a meagre sum I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister certain cases. Take for example, *Readers Digest* It is one of the well produced magazines in the world, there is no doubt about it. It has established an office in India and they are repatriating dividends to England Is it essential, I would ask the hon Minister. They claim to have a big circulation, say, one lakh fifty-thousand or two lakh copies. But, they are not a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. They refuse to become a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. But, I do not know on what basis, DAVP is giving advertisements

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

to the *Reader's Digest*. Many other public sector undertakings also are patronising *Reader's Digest*. I would like to point out this. The other day, I put a question to the Finance Minister My question was this:

> "Whether funds are repatriated in the case of Readers Digest to their foreign principals;
>
> If so, the percentage of such repatriation to the total profits every year and the year wise break up of the amounts so repatriated during the last three years."

The reply given was that during the six months from 1-1-1968 to 30-6-1968, an amount of Rs 67,000 and odd was repatriated to England. During 1969, more than Rs. 51,000 was repatriated. During 1970 more than Rs. 1.45 lakhs were repatriated. Apart from this dividend, the company also remitted during each of the years 1963, 1969 and 1970 an amount equivalent to £18,750 to its British principals towards editorial and other expenses incurred in London on behalf of the Indian company This magazine is competing as a giant with other Indian newspapers May be it is a well-produced magazine, but except the Indian money going abroad, there is nothing Indian in the *Reader's Digest*. I would request the minister to look into it. While you have a paltry budget of Rs 5 crores for both the States and the Centre put together, why should we encourage such newspapers? That means, Government's money is going abroad. I am told they are charging a fantastic amount per page. In fact, the DAVP is questioning the circulation of small and medium-sized papers, they never even care to answer letters The smaller and medium-sized papers in far off parts of the country do not get a line of DAVP advertisement, whereas a giant like the *Reader's Digest* is knocking away a lion's share of the advertisement revenue. I would request the hon. minister to look into this and pass on this information to other public sector undertakings also, so that public money is not wasted on such a newspaper, whose dividends are going abroad. It is a very serious matter to consider whether such a magazine should be at all allowed to be printed in India, becase they send out a large sum of money in the name of editorial expenses. In fact, they can establish their editorial offices here. We are second to none in our talents.

Another laudable aim of the Press Council is to keep up the standards of the newspapers But what is it doing? Every day there is a spurt in erroticism. In the name of youth magazines, glossy magazines are published every month with nude photographs as centre-spread. When the Press Council asked the publishers to explain, they boldly said, what they are publishing is nothing but import substitutron By offering salacious matter at a cheaper cost, they said they are doings a great service to the country' These things are printed in this report But the Press Council cannot raise a little finger because it has no teeth at all So, vulgarism is one aspect of the present day newspaper world The other aspect of the regional newspapers and to some extent of some English newspapers, is that they are indulging in sensationalism and blackmailing The Press Council sheds crocodile tears, may be sometimes real tears, but they are ineffective They just point out that these are the things done by some of the newspapers but they are helpless in this regard So, I would say that this kind of window-dressing will not do.

If at all you want to Press Council, it should be an independent body, a powerful body. There is no use having a Press Council in the nature of a police court in a small town In fact, even the police court has got some powers whereas the Press Council has virtually no powers at all. It is a magnificent zero. That is why I say: scrap the Press Council; avoid any kind of window-dressing because that

[Shri Murasoli Maran]

will not help. If at all you want a Press Council, it should be independent with all powers.

Here I would say that the Chairman of the Council should not be a retired Judge. This observation should not be considered as an aspersion on the present Chairman, Mr. Rajagopala Iyengar. In fact, I have every respect for him. But, then, there is the question of propriety in appointing retired judges for such posts Democratic traditions require that retired judges should not be appointed as Members of the Election Commission or Press Council because that will remove the semblance of impartiality of these high posts.

I would say that the Press Council should not take too much time in settling cases. They should avoid time-consuming processes I am told that in the case of Bennet Coleman & Company to go into the sale of some wastepaper where black money was involved, they took several weeks and months and, finally, when the party went to the High Court the matter was settled within a few days

Then, in the constitution of the Press Council it is not necessary to include people of different ideologies. Neither is it necessary to give representation to this union or that union or people with different political persuations. It should have at least the appearance of a judicial body.

The conception of the Press Council by the Press Commission was really on very strong ground. It recommended:

> "the Press Council not only to safeguard the freedom of the press but also to help the press to maintain its independence, to keep under review any developments likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance, and to keep a watch on the arrangements made by the Indian newspapers and news agencies with foreign newspapers and news agencies...."

Then they have given 14 functions. One of the important functions of this Committee is:

> "to study the developments which may tend towards monopoly or concentration of ownership of newspapers and news agencies, including their financial structure."

This is one of the functions of the Press Council But the Council was not asked to do that function In fact, in this Report it is stated that the Press Council was going in this direction They themselves were doing some research on this aspect of monopoly ownership and several related matters Suddenly, the Government of India appointed a sub-Committee of the Cabinet to go into the question and again a fact finding Committee was appointed to go into that question If you have created a Press Council a specific function, to go into the study of development which may tend towards monopoly or concentration of ownership, why did you overstep this Council? Don't you have any confidence in the Press Council? Have you lost your confidence in the Press Council? It looks that there is some kind of side-tracking the Press Council's function I want to know what happened to the research they mentioned, that they were doing on Suddenly, after seeing the news that the Government of India is also embarking on this work, they have stopped this function I want an answer from the hon Minister whether the Government has lost the confidence in the Press Council

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, we have a Member of the celebrated Committee which is to evolve a machinary for the purpose. I would like to know from him why the Committee has taken such an inordinately long time to come to a decision.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Bill by itself is probably the most non-controversial Bill that the Government has brought during this session. This Bill wants to extend the period of the Press Council and the circumstances necessitating it have already been brought before your notice.

As a Member of the Committee of Members of Parliament, I would say that we are seriously considering about the nature of changes that may be desirable in the Press Council Act, particularly keeping in view the circumstances in which the entire Press Council has been put because that high-powered Committee has refused to function.

15.32 hrs.

[SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI *in the Chair*].

I can assure you, as a Member of this Committee that it is not because of any default on the part of the Committee or on the part of the Government that there has been delay in bringing the necessary amendments in the Press Council Act.

In the Committee, we have been posed with many problems. One of the problems is that the high-powered Committee which was formed with three illustrious persons, the Chief Justice of India, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, has refused to function because of certain unfortunate controversies.

After that, the Committee has been confronted with various questions. The question is how to maintain the interests of the language papers *vis-a-vis* the English papers on which aspect many Members have spoken and voiced their serious concern. We have also been confronted with a question as to how we can avoid the Press Council being dominated by a big concern, a monopoly concern, or a combination of big concerns. We have been confronted with a question as to how we can make effective representation in the Press Council of categories of unions or categorised persons who are working in different aspects of press life. Also, we are confronted with a delicate question as to how we can maintain a balance between the independence of the press and the ethical standards of the press. These are such delicate and difficult questions.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Is there a conflict between the freedom of press and the ethical standard?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: There may be a conflict in the way you look at it. A person may feel, "I have got a freedom of expression and, obviously, my freedom of expression is unlimited and the ethical question should not come in the way." The other view may be that the ethical question should predominate and the freedom of expression becomes a secondary concept. Therefore, while we make a legislation, we ought to maintain a balance between the two extreme views.

Being confronted with these delecate questions, we have thought out various proposals, alternative proposals. But the difficulty is that when we examine any proposal, ultimately, we find that most of the proposals are not very satisfactory to really resolve the problems that we are posed with. It is because of this primarily and because of our serious concern to improve the Press Council Act that there has been some delay in bringing the legislation. As a member of the Committee, I assure the House that we are trying our utmost to come our own conclusions and present our own views before the Government so that the Government may come with a Bill witnin the next session or so. Though controversies have been raised in this debeate which do not really come within the purview of this Bill itself, some aspects of the Press Council have been brought in

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

this House and I would like to express my own opinion also on those.

I was listening to the speech of Mr. Jagannathrao Joshi. He spoke a lot about the freedom of press, and ultimately, while concluding, said, 'I am against all sorts of monopoly'. Tomorrow he will find that the content of his speech is completely contradictory to the last sentence which he uttered in his speech.

Now the question comes as to what we mean by the expression 'freedom of press'. I agree, there should not be unreasonable restrictions and limitations on the freedom of expression of the press or any other mass media. The freedom of expression, subject to certain restrictions and limitations placed by the Constitution itself, is a very sacred freedom which the press has. But does it mean that the press should be absolutely free from all sorts of controls? After all, in this country today we should not forget that, having accepted the democratic form of life, the press plays a very dominant role in formulating the opinion of the people and also in leading the country on the path on which we want them to lead this country. There are certain groups or companies which have a dominating control over the press and we cannot permit a monopoly press to continue. We want that the press should be of such a nature that it may project the aspirations and desires of the millions of people who have really no avenues by which they can express themselves. It is the duty of the Government, it is the duty of Parliament, it is the duty of all of us, irrespective of party affiliations, to create a climate in which the mute millions who have no way of expressing themselves may find their expression through the very enlightened press. To that extent, obviously, some sort of limitation or control is necessary. I am sure, this has been very adequately expressed by the hon. Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral, when he said:

> "Freedom of the press does not mean freedom from control, but freedom to write. How could society be indifferent to the influence of the private owners of the press? It is the ownership pattern that is to be controlled and not the written word...."

Another aspect on which we should ponder and to which we should give serious thought is this. In this country, really, has there been a freedom of expression? Whose freedom of expression do we want? We want freedom of expression not of the few businessmen who control the press but we want the freedom of expression of the editors, the enlightened writers. But unfortunately the situation today in this country is such that the voice of the editors is stifled in many cases by the controlling hand of the persons who are controlling the papers. Therefore, if we really want to have freedom of expression through press, we should try to create the climate in which the editors of this country can express their view points without fear or favour, subject, of course, to the restrictions which the Constitution in general public interest has placed.

The next question to which I come and over which perhaps not much attention has been given is the role of press *vis-a-vis* Parliament. This is one aspect on which I wish to say a line or two. After all, we shall have to admit that all of us feel happy to see our names in the newspapers. Therefore, after delivering speeches here, the first thing that we do in the next morning is to go to the library and see whether our names have appeared or not. This is human psychology. We all like to hear our own voices, we like to see our names in print, we like to see our photos in the papers. (*Interruptions*) There

are, of course, exceptions. Therefore, the press plays, even indirectly, a very important role in the deliberations of this Parliament. I am trying to focus the attention of the House to a very important aspect. I had the opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference last time and a very serious question that came up for discussion at that forum was that the standard of Bills and legislation throughout the world was going down day by day. It is not as if in this country alone that the standard of legislation has gone down. Throughout the world today we find that the standard of legislation has gone down and, therefore, probably, year after year, we have to bring amendments after amendments, a feature not only common to this country but common throughout the world. One of the conclusions that we had arrived at was that today if there is any aspect of the parliamentary life which is absolutely neglected by the news media, it is the legislating portion itself. We are here to legislate but I know if you look to the type of publicity that is given, the most serious aspect, that is the legislating part of the legislature, is completely ignored today That is why today probably in this House we want to spend more time through the Zero Hour and during the rest of the period there is an empty House. This is one of the reasons that even on the most important Bills there are not enough speakers while everybody wants to speak on the most sensational aspects which get cheap and easy publicity. I beg of the members of the news media of this country to ponder over this question. I may be wrong, but if they feel that there is some point in it, it is their duty to see that they can also create a climate by which they can help us in really having a very fruitful and meaningful discussion and deliberation in this House.

The last point to which I wish to draw your attention is this. As you say we are hard-pressed for time and being myself a fellow Chairman, I do not want to inconvenience you by continuing my speech I thank you for giving me an opportunity. I hope the House will reconsider this question which I have placed before them.

सभापति महोदय : मैं एक बात अर्ज करना चाहता हू---इस बिल के लिये 2 घन्टे रखे गये थे, वे दो घन्टे हो चुके है। मै दरखवास्त करूंगा कि जो साहबान बोलने वाले है वे वक्त का लिहाज रखे और कम से कम समय लें।

श्री मधु लिमये मैंने तो 20 मिनट बचाये हैं। मुझे 30 मिनट भाषण करने का अधिकार है, लेकिन मैंने तो 10 मिनट या उस से भी कम समय लिया।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): This is a minor piece of legislation and also a harmless measure, it deals with certain difficulties which have come in the way of the Government because of the absence of the nomination committee appointing the members of the Press Council and, therefore, there can hardly be any objection against this Bill as such. But what is objectionable all the same is the manner of the Government resorting to ordinance issuing in this regard.

I can see the difficulties of the Government ..

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): This point has been made.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Let me put it in my style, if I may. The Government of India has a power to make ordinances under the Constitution. But, would the Minister accept the fact that because he has the power, therefore, he will go on using it for any kind of things? Is this

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

an emergency? Surely, the Government could have persuaded the authorities concerned to expedite the matter so that they were not put to an unnecessary resort to issuing the ordinance. That is my point. Therefore, I hope in future at least, the Government is not forced or compelled to issue ordinances on such grounds such as the present one, that because of the fact a certain time table was not completed, therefore, in order to meet the emergency situation, 'we are issuing an ordinance' and get it passed by the Parliament This is not a healthy practice. This is what I want to suggest.

Second thing is my esteemed friend, Shri Goswami, has assured us that the committee will go into the question as quickly as possible. I wish that they will be able to come to some kind of a definite and concrete proposal with regard to the composition of the nominating committee so that this particular difficulty in which the Government finds itself today is not there.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: We are at the moment discussing whether we should have a Nominating Committee at all or whether we can have some other alternative form by which we can get an atmosphere in which the problem can be solved.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: That answers my point to a certain extent. Having said this, I would say, this measure which has come before us affords us a welcome opportunity of reflecting briefly on the Press Council and its functioning in particular, and the role and value of the free, independent press in general, and on the contribution that the Fourth Estate has to make in any democracy in the world and a developing democracy such as ours.

One may not agree with many things happening in America, and also with the way the American democracy functions. One may have objections and doubts about many things. But on one point everybody, I think, should remain agreed that there is great and undoubted freedom of the press in USA, UK and in many other developed and democratic countries. The recent example of the exit of the American President Mr. Nixon from the White House is a case inpoint. What do you see? It is ultimately the freedom of the Press which has asserted itself, which has made a significant contribution in regard to the dimissal of the President who was thought to have so much entrenched himself in power that it was difficult to remove him. The role of the press in USA was significant and decisive. It shows what a free, independent newspaper world can do in regard to such unfortunate situation. Now compare that with our country. The situation in our country is far from satisfactory. There are attacks on editorial freedom by the establishment. By establishment, I mean, both Government and the big tycoons of business, managements on the financial side and Government on the political side. The newspapers come under the spell and the overpowering authority of this Establishment. Therefore it is becoming more and more difficult for honest, upright, individual journalists to function independently and without fear or favour.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister is not listening; he is talking with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I don't mind the Minister talking to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs because in any case I have the satisfaction that what I say...

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: My hon colleague has to reply to the debate and not me.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: has gone on record. Even if I say something to him he is not going to listen to what I say; let him continue his dialogue. My point is this.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I can assure my hon. friend that I have great respect for his wisdom and whenever he says something I always listen. Whenever I am unable to listen even then I respect him all the same. I wish to assure him that whatever he has said, I have listened and if I have missed anything, I will also read that.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I do not object myself; I was only referring to what Mr. Somnath Chatterjee was objecting.

The journalists' duty is to write without fear or favour. A genuine journalist has to undergo various hazardous duties. There are all kinds of risks which are involved. There is, as it were, a sword constently hanging; there is so to say, a certain in security. That is why Press has to be protected and its freedom preserved in terms of freedom of the Press. with great care and attention. Let me refer to certain events in Ahmedabad earlier this month. Newspapermen had gone to the Gujarat Governor's Adviser's house, Mr. Sarin's house, in Ahmedabad.

And when 25 of them went, not only did the Adviser not come out to listen to their grievance, but the police instead lathicharged the 25 newsmen and one of them got seriously injured. Upto this date, there is no definite inquiry that has come out. If newspaper men are men who are going to write something which is inconvenient and awkward to the authority that be, then instead of rewarding them, if you are going to punish them for such writing—they are doing their job which they are supposed to do—then that is indeed sad. Everywhere and especially in Gujarat you will find the trouble as there is in last few days or so. Probably, that is the position not only in Ahmedabad but everywhere else, too. What happened yesterday in Ahmedabad or day before yesterday or what will happen tomorrow is also something worth observing, and it shows that there is this kind of uneasy and uncomfortable feeling that obtains between the citizens and ordinary people on the one hand and the police and the authorities on the other. It is only when the police and the authorities try to strangulate the people, and try to strangulate the freedom and rights of the people that situations of this sort are created. On some flimsy grounds some are arrested—it may be right or wrong—and even on superficial grounds they are arrested. My information is this. A young cloth merchant in Ahmedabad was arrested on grounds of "teasing" a daughter of a police inspector. This was alleged to have happened. But it was not true, and there was so much of disturbance that followed. That is all due to the fact that there is not that climate of confidence and understanding between the authorities on the one hand and the citizens on the other. For the press, I say that the press media and the press publicity are vital in a democracy. But what we find in India is that attempts are being made continuously by the Govvernments to shackle and felter the press and the journalists. Attempts are made to brisk and even banish them? on editorial freedom by big tycoons of business and they punish the journalists. So, we must stand up and speak up against such atrocious attacks on our Press and Pressmen. It is here precisely, that the Press councils duties become significant and crucial.

Lastly, I request my hon. friend to consider one thing. I would like to make a few of suggestions. Can you really think of any better nominating committee—stronger and more acceptable—than the one consisting of Vice-President (Chairman of Rajya Sabha), Speaker and Chief Justice? It is better to have a committee consisting of these three people. Around these

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

three persons' names have been woven so well and firmly during these last twentyseven years the traditions of integrity, impartiality and independence that there can be reasonable assurance that they can make a good choice of the Members of the Press Council. Moreover, if the Press Council has to function better, and if it has to function effectively on its own, I would suggest to Government that they come forward with some kind of a small amendment saying that criticism of this nominating Committee shall not be permitted or even if there be criticism it shall be fair criticism. You can put in some kind of a reasonable restraint, so that unfair criticism is avoided. I am not saying anything with regard to decision making or selection-making power as such

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How will they decide that? If there are 20 names, how will they select out of them?

SHRI P. G MAVALANKAR: Obviously they will decide on the basis of their general competence and experience. These three honourable men are highly respected and have the traditions of integrity, impartiality and independence After all, you have to put faith in some kind of a machinery. Lastly, I want to suggest that the Press Council should not have any punitive powers. They should not punish anybody Let them of course be free to pass any moral strictures on the wrong doers That would be enough. We have seen that even in a developing democracy, public opinion will have its own effect But I hope Shri Gujral will see to it that the amendment that he brings forward will be such that the Press Council has some powers of even summoning the parties concerned. Today, the difficulty is that the Press Council cannot summon. You would have heard that in Haryana, in connection with certain cases, the Press Council wanted the Haryana Government definitely to send their representatives to give evidence. In particular they wanted Shri Bansi Lal, the Chief Minister or his representative to give evidence before them. I was told that nobody from Haryana Government came before the Press Council for giving evidence. If the Press council are not able to summon anybody, then how can they proceed further? So, if you can give some powers to the Press Council for summoning, then the funtioning of the Press Council would really prove more helpful and the freedom of the Press will have greater meaning and greater significance.

श्रीपरिपूर्णानन्द पैन्यूली (टिहरी गढ़वाल): सभापति जी, जो मामला बहुत साधारण और आसान था उसको ख्वाहमख्वाह तूल दे दिया गया। प्रेस कौंसिल की अवधि को बढ़ाने की बात थी। आवश्यकता इस बात की थी कि पिछले सेशन में ही इसकी अवधि बढ़ाने की तजवीज सरकार की तरफ से पेश की जाती और इसको 31 दिसम्बर, 1974 तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया जाता बजाये एक आर्डिनेन्स इश्यु करने के। इस कमेटी के एक सदस्य ने जो राज्य सभा के है उन्होंने कहा कि इतना समय बढ़ाने की कोई जरूरत नहीं थी, उन्होंने कहा हमारी कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं है, हम हिस्सा नहीं ले पाते है। राष्ट्रपति तक के चुनाव के लिए जब 15 दिन का समय काफी रहता है तो क्या इसके चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति करने और इसके सदस्यों की नियुक्ति करने के लिए इतना लम्बा चौड़ा समय देने और इतना अधिक पैसा खर्च करने की आवश्यकता है ? खैर, मैं इसको छोड़ता हूं।

यहां पर हमारे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने फ्रीडम आफ प्रेस की बात कही है । प्रेस कौंसिल विधेयक मे, उसके सेक्शन (2) में, इसके उद्देश्यो की व्याख्या करते हुए कहा गया है :

"That the object of the Council shall be to preserve the freedom of the Press and maintain and improve the standards of the newspapers in India."

यह बहुत अच्छी बात है, प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रा होनी चाहिए । किन्तु वह लोग जो गल्ले के व्यापार की स्वतन्त्रता गल्ला व्यापारियो को देने की बात करते है, जब वही लोग प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता की बात करते है ता हम समझते है कि उनका अर्थ क्या है ।

आप किसी भी दिन का अखबार देख ले किसी महीने या किसी हफ्ते का अखबार देख ले, अपवाद-स्वरूप दो एक अखबारो को छाड़ कर, कोई भी अखबार ऐसा नही होगा जिसमे कालम के कालम कांग्रेस और सरकार की आलोचना मे न रगे गए हो । दुहाई यह दी जाती है कि कांग्रेस ने प्रेस का गला घोट रखा है, प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता छीन रखी है । 1971 के चुनाव मे कांग्रेस के विरूद्ध जिस तरह का प्रचार किया गया, 1972 के चुनाव मे जिस तरह का प्रचार किया गया, पिछली बार यू० पी० असेम्बली के चुनाव मे बडे बडे मानोपोली प्रेसेज ने जिस तरह से कांग्रेस के विरूद्ध प्रचार किया वह किसी से भी छिपा हुआ नही है । अभी राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव मे अभी हमारे जनसघ के एक महान नेता जोशी जी भाषण दे रहे थे, उनके "मदरलैंड" ने जिस प्रकार का कम्युनल प्रचार किया है और जिस प्रकार की अनर्गल बातें कही वह किसी से भी छिपी हुई नही है । अगर शासन चाहे तो इस प्रकार के अखबारो को बन्द किया जा सकता है । किसी दूसरे देश मे इस प्रकार की बातें अखबारो मे छपती तो मैं समझता हू उनको बन्द कर दिया जाता । मैं तो समझता हूं हमारे देश मे प्रेस स्वतन्त्रता आवश्यकता से अधिक है जिसका दुरुपयोग बहुत से अखबार वाले करते है ।

यह भी कहा जाता है कि एडवर्टीजमेंट देकर अखबारो को खरीदने का काम किया जाता है । स्वय विरोधी दल के एक सदस्य ने कहा है कि 65 करोड रूपए का कुल बजट अखबारो के विज्ञापनो के लिए होता है जिसमे से केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रान्तीय सरकारे और जितनी पब्लिक सेक्टर अन्डरटेकिग्ज है उन सभी का मिलाकर 5 करोड का बजट होता है तो 5 करोड रुपया खर्च करके केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रान्तीय सरकारे और पब्लिक सेक्टर अडरटेकिग्ज कितने प्रेसेज को खरीद सकती है ? इसलिये यह कहना भी सर्वथा गलत है ।

अब रही अखबारी कागज के कोटे की बात को 20 अखबार एसे है देश मे जिनका 90 प्रतिशट आज कागज का कोटा होता है । 20 साल पहले 1954 मे जब प्रेस कौमिल बनी थी उस समय 20 सबसे ऊचे चोटी के अखबारो का जो सकुलेशन था वह आज 10 चोटी के अखबारो का सर्कुलेशन हो गया है । इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हू यह कहना सरासर गलत है कि सरकार अखबारो पर अकुश लगाना चाहती है या उनका मुह बन्द करना चाहती है । मै कहना चाहता हू हमारे सूचना

श्री परिपूर्णानन्द पैन्यूली

एवं प्रसारण मन्त्री अनेक बार कह चुके हैं कि मानोपोली हाउसेज से अखबारों को मुक्त करना चाहते हैं, यह सरकार की नीति है जिसका तीन साल से वादा हो रहा है किन्तु अभी तक इस बात को कार्य रूप में परिणत करते हुए नहीं देखा है। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि जो श्रमजीवी पत्रकार हैं जिनकी दशा बहुत खराब है, 5–6 साल से उनका वेतन बढ़ाने की बात हो रही है किन्तु मानोपोली प्रेस उस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। मानोपोली अपने स्वार्थ सिद्धि के लिए, अपने प्रचार के लिए और अपनी लाबी बनाये रखने के लिए प्रेस को अपने पास रखते हैं। वे नहीं चाहते हैं कि वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों की दशा सुधरे। वे भले ही श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों की दिशा सुधारने की बात करें परन्तु यह निश्चित बात है कि मानोपोली हाउसेज श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के हित की बात नहीं करेंगे। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो हमारे श्रमजीवी पत्रकार हैं या अखबार में काम करने वाले दूसरे सम्पादक हैं उनके हितों की रक्षा के लिए इस प्रेस कोमिल का अधिक शक्तिशाली बनाये जाने की आवश्यकता है

16.00 hrs.

एक अन्तिम बात और कह देना चाहता हूं कि प्रस की स्वतन्त्रता के नाम पर छोटे छोटे अखबारों को तरजीह देने की बात की जाती है। इन अखबारों में कई ऐसे हैं जो ब्लैक मेलिंग से काम चलाते हैं जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में एक एक जिले में 10,10, 20, 20 अखबार निकलते हैं जिन का सर्कुलेशन 50 भी नहीं है। उन को रिश्वत देकर के जो चाहें छपा सकते हैं, जिस की चाहें इमेज खराब करा सकते हैं। इस प्रकार से जो ब्लैकमेलिंग करने वाले पत्रकार हैं उन को इस पवित्र व्यवस्था से दूर करने की आवश्यकता है तभी स्वस्थ प्रेस पनप सकता है

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस का समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I have absolutely no doubt that the time has come when we must set up another Press Commission. The first Press Commission was appointed about 22 years back. During this period, enough experience has been garnered in the light of which the constitution and the functions of the press council could be reviewed. That has happened in the United Kingdom also, that from time to time Press Commissions have been appointed, and I should think that Government would address themselves to this problem now after 22 years.

Broadly, what has been our experience during this long interval? Our experience has been that the press council cannot function properly so long as the suppressed-council of Mr. Gujral functions, reinforced by the sup-press-lords in the sphere of business and industry. That was what had happened during the course of the railway strike. During the railway strike, all kinds of reprehensible hoardings and pamphlets were brought out and publicity materials were brought out by Government. But Government were not satisfied with them at all and they invoked the assistance of the FICCI. Government did depend upon their own enormous resources in the matter of publicity but they had also invoked the assistance of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to support them in their endeavour to malign the striking railway employees. That is what has happened. So, does it lie in

the mouth of my hon. friends from the other side to say that the businessmen and the industrialists happened to be on the other side? Here is a clear example where the apex body of industry and business, namely the FICCI came to their help and rescue at the time of the railway strike. We can produce before you here all the hoardings and pamphlets that were produced by the FICCI on that occasion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Raipur): We must salute Mrs. Gandhi.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I have spoken about the sup-pressed-council of Mr. Gujral functioning at the Central level, but they have got their own subedars at the State level. One of the subedars is very near to the capital city of Delhi, that is, the subedar in Chaudhary Bansi Lal. You know how the press council had passed strictures on that Government, but those strictures have remained completely sterile. Why did not my hon. friends on the other side, if they were champions of liberty and freedom of the press, address themselves to this task? What exactly have they done? When we used to function in the united body of the Congress, we did take up such matters in our general body meeting or in the executive committee meetings. Now, during these days of the supreme leadership of the Prime Minister, nobody can speak out his mind.

That is how their party is functioning. Why are they not pulling up this sup-press-lord called Chaudhary Bansi Lal? Mr. Ghafoor's regime in Bihar has been responsible for the worst kind of atrocities on two important newspapers from which we derived inspiration all these days—I am speaking of the *Searchlight* and *Pradeep*—since independence and even before. Why have these people not taken any action against Mr. Ghafoor If the people of Bihar have risen against the regime there, it is because they have found some fault with it. And look at the complacancy of some of the hon. members on the other side when they say that the movement in Bihar is fizzling out. In the very first week or probably first two weeks of the movement, you had to dismiss 34 out of the 46 Ministers. Who made you dismiss them? Did you dismiss them of your own sweet will? You had to do it under the pressure that was building up because of the movement.

Later on notifications in regard to the bye-elections to fill vacancies were announced. But you had to withdraw the notifications. You did not have the courage to face those bye-elections. And yet you are sitting here and speaking in these terms. These are the people who are going to kill this Government, the sycophantic and flattering type. Mrs. Gandhi must realise that it is frauds, flatters and sycophants like this who are going to undo them.

Therefore, I would say that if they had really any love for freedom of the press, they would have pulled up Mr. Ghafoor for what he has done.

Even my hon. friend, the Railway Minister, has publicly condemned the delisting of The *Searchlight* and the *Pradeep*. He is a member of the Council of Ministers here. The President of the State Unit of their party, Shri Sitaram Kesri, who happens to be a member of the other House, has also condemned the delisting of these two papers. And yet Shri Gujral would not open his mouth. They would not do anything about it. The entire world has risen against this kind of treatment meted out to these two papers. Their own men are rising against it. They are important persons. And yet they would not do any thing about it.

You know to what kind of arson and vandalism these two papers were subjected to. And yet why did this Government not institute a judicial inquiry because freedom of the press should be the concern and responsibility of the Centre. They should have

[Shri Shyam Nandan Mishra]

instituted a judicial inquiry, let alone what is being done by the Press Council. I have no doubt the Press Council would be giving its most impartial and judicial verdict in this matter, but this Government has failed to do anything in that respect to mollify public opinion.

Similarly, as has been very rightly pointed out by my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye, there is another subedar in Punjab, Mr. Zail Singh who has cut off the electricity connection to *Hind Samachar* and *Punjab Kesari*. This is what is happening.

Then you also must have read in the newspapers—I am concluding; I am almost speaking at supersonic speed—what is happening in the city of Jamshedpur. The journalists are living in a kind of terroristic atmosphere. One was killed earlier. The Government would not do anything about it.

My submission is that if you really mean sincerely by the freedom of the press, then, you must take one or two steps. One is, whatever subsidies given by this Government to the agencies or to any newspaper in any form should not be their sole responsibility and even if it is their responsibility as Government, then, the Press Council must give its report on the manner in which the subsidy is being dispensed with by this Government every year. They must give not only the report. These are the main key elements which would determine the real content of the freedom of the Press. Similarly, with regard to the paper, the newsprint that is given to the press, in that matter also, there should be a report from the Press Council and so also in the matter of advertisements. If it is only to the extent of Rs. 5 crores that the Government has dispensed with in the matter of advertisements that should be subject to some kind of control, at least normative and regulative control, of the Press Council. They will lay down norms and they will also give their opinions how advertisements have been given to the various newspapers and so on. Finally, that should be supported by some body at the Parliamentary level. If Parliament of India is really the guardian of the freedom of the people and of the Press then, there must be a supporting body here, which would look into the reports of the Press Council closely and which would also bring to the notice of Parliament, whether the reports of the Press Council have been seriously attended to or not. Then, it should be the first concern of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to see that the reports submitted by the Press Council are annually discussed by Parliament separately; not only as a part of the functioning of this Ministry. In fact, it sounds rather strange that the Press Council's reports should be considered to be part of the normal functioning of this Ministry They must receive a separate and exclusive consideration by Parliament annually on a particular date. These are my few submissions

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has been a very wide ranging debate. Problems relating to interference in the running of newspapers, attack on individual journalists, monopoly nature of the Press, state of journalism, wrong doing by journalists, ethical behaviour, yellow journalism, diffusion and de-linking etc, have all been touched in this debate. As I said in the beginning, this debate had a very limited objective of extending the life of the Press Council. But, I welcome this opportunity to clarify certain points. To begin with, I would like to refer to the point mentioned by Mr. Joshi and Mr Mavalankar about the need to bring forward this Ordinance, and whether we could have possibly avoided the extension of the life of the Press Council through an Ordinance. I would say, in mitigation—of

course, it would have been better if it had been possible for us to avoid extending the life of the Press Council through an Ordinance—that we had expected that the Committee of Members of Parliament would be able to complete its work in time and we would be able to come before Parliament with a Bill on the recommendations of the Committee.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: It is a reflection on the working of the Committee.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: No, Sir. Not a reflection I said in mitigation. We would have wanted to come with the Bill itself, but it has taken us more time than we had anticipated. Another point which I would, in the very beginning, like to refer is the point made by Mr. Madhu Limaye. This is about censorship. We are against either overt or covert censorship, not only in relation to the Press, against direct or indirect censorship not only in relation to the Press, but also—as mentioned by Mr. Madhu Limaye—in relation to theatre or any other media. I would like to say this that anyone who is aware of Indian history would at all times stand against any sort of censorship in relation of thoughts. We have had a very sad experience in Indian history, when knowledge itself had been denied to many It is not only a commitment of my party as such, but it is a national commitment, in relation to both our present need, and the Indian history itself that no censorship, direct or indirect, covert or overt, is introduced in any medium of expression to throttle ideas I hope the voice of sanity raised by Shri Madhu Limaye in relation to theatre, will be attended to by the Delhi Administration It was the Jan Sangh who introduced this procedure of demanding submission of the script for drama and theatre to the administration for clearance

श्री मधु लिमये : यह अच्छी खबर मिली है कि जन संघ के कदमों पर ही ये लोग चलते हैं । फिर जन संघ को गाली क्यों देते हैं ।

श्री श्याम नन्दन मिश्र : कभी चौ० चरण सिंह के चरणों पर और कभी जन संघ के चरणों पर ।

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री आई० के० गुजराल) . असल में बात यह है कि श्री जोशी फ्रीडम आफ एक्सप्रेशन के लिए बड़े बराड थे ...

श्री मधु लिमये : जन संघ प्रशासन ने ऐसा किया तो कोई अच्छा तो नहीं किया ।

श्री आई० के०गुजराल . अनफार्चुनेटली जन संघ के प्रशासन ने भारत के इतिहास में पहली दफा थेटर पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाना शुरू किया । पहले कभी नहीं होता था ऐसा हमारी एटेंशन इस तरफ दिलाई है अब और हम पूरा स्पोर्ट करते है उन थाट्स को जो लिमये जी ने जाहिर किए है थेटर के मुताल्लिक और खास कर स्टेज के मुताल्लिक । हम भी यही चाहते है कि उनको पूरी आजादी होनी चाहिये और मै कहना चाहता हू कि जो एमेच्योर थेटर पर एटरटेनमेंट टैक्स लगाता है वह नहीं लगना चाहिये ।

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: We want not only a free press but a lively, prosperous and diversified press to inform the public on current affairs and express opinion which would stimulate and strengthen democracy in this country. Freedom and independence of press should aiso include the variety of newspapers available to readers. Freedom should not only mean that the press should not be beholden to the Government and I must repudiate any suggestion that Government has brought at any time any pressure on any newspaper. Press freedom should be the freedom not only of those who own and produce papers but of the reading public as well. We consider that an important component of the freedom of the press is the freedom of choice of the readers to select their newspapers. Dependence on industrial

[Shri Dharam Bir Sinha]

interests which to a very large extent is relevant the situation in India, has limited variety amongst newspapers. Unfortunately the trend in concentration of ownership has strengthened during the last 20 years since the Press Commission submitted its report in 1954. In 1954, 15 newspaper concerns controlled 51.1 per cent of the total circulation of newspapers. Today, 20 years later, only 7 papers control 51.1 per cent of the total circulation. Among English newspapers, it is only 7 owners who control 82.2 per cent of the entire English newspaper circulation in the country. In the various other languages, the situation is as bad. The problem of concentration of ownership and monopoly which has been raised in this debate is very valid. I can assure the House that whatever delay has been there in bringing a measure about delinking of newspapers has arisen from the Supreme Court judgment. There is a Committee which is examining the various aspects of it, the examination of the judgment of the Supreme Court, which is very voluminous which gives so many pronouncements, will be completed soon and I hope we will be able to finalise the measure before long.

Shri Shyamnandan Mishra referred to the need for a second Press Commission. We do not think we need a second Press Commission now. The first Press Commission's report is very much valid even today. So, instead of going through the broad canvas of the press again, our strategy is to have expert groups to deal with specific areas.

At one level we are considering the delinking of the press from big monopoly houses. Then, we have a comittee which is going into the economics of newspapers. We are also thinking of another group to go into the question of machinery and other plant weeded in the printing trade and in newspaper production. When these reports come in, when their recommendations are available, along with the Press Council, we hope that we would be able to get a fair idea of what needs to be done, in the background of the canvas of the recommendations already made by the Press Commission.

I would like the House to acknowledge that the press today is also a power. Because, in a democratic structure it is not only the various organs of the State which constitute power but the press itself also, constitutes power. When we discuss power relationship in any democratic society, we have to consider power in terms of responsibility and accountability. Parliament is generally accountable to the Indian masses, to the electorate. As Baldwin said, in another context in England, real power is available for the responsibility owned. In this context we have to accept the fact that the press is accountable to the general good of the country and the general good of the Indian masses.

Shri Maran raised the problem of free flow of information standard of newspapers, and sensationalism and blackmailing which is growing in the Indian press. I accept that this is happening. That is endemic sin is developing in Indian journalism today. It hints more than it says. There is more of innuendoes and smear than direct accusation. I would not say that most of the Indian press is involved in it but, as Shri Maran said, a certain percentage to the Indian press does things like this.

I would like only to refer to the very disgraceful way in which one Karnataka Minister was hounded out from his office. It was more by a smear; it was more by an innuendo it was more by a campaign of vilification, without making a direct charge. I think, here again, the role of the Press Council becomes more valid. (*Interruptions*) Whatever be the political conflict within a political party, we are discussing here the role of the press in a particular situation.

As I said, in a democracy like ours, we cannot adopt a value free method of judging the press, of press reporting or other aspects of journalism, because value free method, I consider is a myth and is a very dangerous myth. In reality it does not fit with any theory or the needs of a changing society.

Another point that I would like to refer to is the one raised by Mr. Jagannathrao Joshi and some other Members about Haryana, Bihar and Punjab incidents. These are within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. I would not like to comment on them in this House, in this forum, on subject in which the State legislature by itself is sovereign. The Press Council has been formed and it is there. They have given their judgment in cases referred to them. To that extent, the purpose of bringing the Press Council Act and creating the Press Council has been fulfilled. I am sure, whatever the complaint against the Bihar Government is, which is pending before the Press Council, the Press Council will go into it as it went into Haryana complaint.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The question is, if the Press Council does find a State Government responsible for anti-press activities, will there be a censuring power on the part of the Press Council or the Central Government which is in overall control of press matters? This is a more fundamental point. I would request the hon. Minister to deal with it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It is a fundamental point. It is for this House also to address itself to. Do we or do we not wish to give to the Press Council the authority? Do we wish that the Press Council should funcion only as an opinion-making, opinion-forming, body? Do we want the Press Council to enforce a decision by an authority? It is not a question of the Government or this side of the House to decide. It is an issue on which the nation must make up its mind....

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Can't you place the reports of the Press Council with a moral authority? Don't you have any moral authority?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: But the basic issue is, whether to provide teeth to the Press Council. By and large, both in the press and outside, a general opinion has been that it is not good for us to give teeth to the Press Council.

It is also a fact, whereas I agree that the Press Council should look into wherever the freedom of the press is compromised, that this House and the other House have set up a Press Council. This is something on which the nation as a whole has to make up its mind. Basically, the State Government is responsible to its own legislature. I think, these things do matter.

My general opinion, as a citizen of India, is that whenever the Press Council has made observations either about a paper or about a State Government or about a State authority or about any form of authority, I think, it has had its effect and every effect is not just legally enforceable. In a democratic society, opinion-making is a very strong thing I think, my hon. friend, Shri Shyamnandan Mishra should be satisfied with that. It is a very good thing that is happening.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: How do you act in order to create that public opinion? The Press Council must be supported by the Government of India. Otherwise, it has no sanction behind it.

SHRI I. K GUJRAL: It is an unusual thing in India that we have set up the Press Council by an Act of Parliament. Normally Press Councils are set up...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: We know that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: All right, That is number one.

Secondly, please do not forget the basic philosophy of the Press Council. The basic philosophy is that there is the judgment by the fellow peers. Therefore, when they sit in judgment of an act of Government which is not represented on that, the limitations are bound to be there. It is not that I want the Government to be represented. But some limitations will have to be reckoned with and also, I think, whatever the Press Council might say about an act of Government

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Only one word The journalists have to submit to the censure of the Press Council but the Government cannot be subjected to the censure of the Press Council Is there not gross inequality in this? How are courts putting up with such a situation?

SHRI I. K GUJRAL This is a wrong impression He was saying, 'Journalists have to submit'. There is no such thing as 'have to'. I am aware of a newspaper in this country which was censured six or seven times and he did not care at all. (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN: No dialogue please. Mr. Dharam Bir Sinha, please try to conclude.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: At this stage I would not go into the Constitutional problem of the sovereignty of the State Legislature as far as the functions of the State Governments are concerned. As the Parliament is sovereign in its own area and powers given by the Constitution, the State Legislatures are sovereign in their own areas. I would not like to go into the details of the Constitutional position. This is not the occasion o go into the various divisions of power which the Indian Constitution has provided.

But I would like to refer to the speech made by Shri Vayalar Ravi about the growing monopoly in the Indian press. While I completely endorse his sentiments about the danger to freedom of opinion and danger to the variety of opinion from the growth of concentration in press, I would like to point out that the biggest danger to the freedom of press in this country is not from Government but from the market economy under which the newspapers are at the moment working. This operation, of market economy itself is leading towards concentration, and I hope that this House, this Parliament, would give due consideration to this problem An hon member referred to about Rs 60 crores of advertisement budget of the private sector as compared to Rs 5 crores of the public sector advertisement budget which include the advertisement budgets of the State Governments, and the Central Government and of the entire public sector undertakings. The difference between the budgets of Rs 60 crores and Rs 5 crores can be easily understood. I need not dwell on that very long The only point that I would like to make is that these Rs 60 crores of advertisement budget go to certain papers because of the market economy in this country, because the advertisers happen to aim at certain target areas and only certain papers are serving those target areas

I am sorry, I have taken so much of time I would like to dwell more on other aspects, but I can see that I have taken more time I do not want to hold up the other business of the House and I hope that the House will approve and pass this Bill.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chatrepur): May I know the policy of the Government with regard to giving advertisements especially to newspapers which are published from more than

one place? For example, the *Indian Express* is published from six places, *The Statesman* from three places and the *Times of India* from two places. Is it the policy of the Government to give six advertisemments if a newspaper is published from six places?

SHRI I K GUJRAL The policy regarding this is very simple. With regard to advertisements we have got differential rates system so far as the papers which are published from more than one place We have got a rate for one place as well as rates for 2 places and 3 places etc Whatever advertisements are given, it may be according to the number of places

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola) In the light of our policy for economy in the country, are you thinking in terms of reducing the advertisements given to the Press? You yourself said that out of Rs 60 crores advertisement revenue Rs 5 crores are spent by the Government If the size of the advertisement is a full-page or half a page, can you think of that the matter may be the same but the size is reduced so that you save some money for the country?

SHRI I K GUJRAL I think one thing I might clarify My hon colleague has rightly said that the public sector budget is Rs 5 crores It does not mean that the Government of India spends Rs 5 crores on advertisements The DAVP budget is approximately Rs 17 or 18 crores

So far as the utilisation of the space is concerned and the material published, depending upon the subject and the area to be covered, we may select the size. I might clarify that advertisements is neither an instrument of policy nor an instrument of subsidy

श्री अबु बिम्बले सभापति महोदय, यह सुनकर मुझे खुशी हुई कि दिल्ली के थियेटर के संबंध में जो सवस्यायें हैं उन के बारे में मन्त्री महोदय कोई ठोस कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं। इन्होंने जनसंघ के प्रशासन को तो दोष दिया, लेकिन आगे राम का प्रशासन क्या करना है—इस का उन्होंने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया है। लेकिन मैं इन के आश्वासन को मान कर चलता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि इस तरह की शिकायतें करने का फिर हमको ये लोग अवसर नहीं देंगे।

सभापति महोदय, समाचार भारती का मामला एक अर्से से चल रहा है—मैं यह एक नया विषय उठा रहा हूं आप इस का उल्लेख घंटे रीडिंग में कीजिये— यह मामला खतरे से खाली नहीं है — क्योंकि इस का संबंध इन्दर गुजराल से है। समाचार भारती का जो इन्तजाम है, वह बहुत ही खराब है। उनके चेयरमैन श्री जय प्रकाश जी ने बहुत पहले ही इस्तीफा दे दिया था, क्योंकि उन को समय नहीं मिलता था और वे इस पर ध्यान नहीं दे सकते थे। यह भी डर लगता है – यदि मैं इन को लिख दूं तो फिर ये इस तरह से हस्तक्षेप करेंगे कि मुश्किल होगा, उस को पूरी अपनी ही एजेन्सी बनायेंगे। लेकिन इसमें संदेह नहीं कि यह मामला खतरे से खाली नहीं है। जहां मैं चाहता हूं कि उस की इन्तजामी का कोई उपाय किया जाय, साथ साथ मैं यह भी चाहता हूं कि समाचार भारती का इस तरह से पुनर्गठन किया जाय कि सरकारी नियन्त्रण उस में न आये। मैं इस बात पर बहुत जोर देना चाहता हूं। जहां मैं बदइन्तजामी का विरोध करता हूं, वहां इस का फायदा उठाकर, आप उस पर हावी हैं यह मैं नहीं चाहता। आपसे बड़ा सावधान रहना पड़ता है, खास कर इन्दर गुजराल जी से। जैसे—

चतु प्रवेश मुसल प्रवेश

इस का मुसल अन्दर घुस जायगा। यह मैं बिल्कुल नही चाहता हू। इसके बारे मे समय हो तो यह जयप्रकाश जी से बात करे।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : आप बात करे।

श्री मधु लिमये आपकी बात करने मे क्या दिक्कत है? क्या आपको इन्दिरा जी डाट देगी? समाचार एजेन्सी के बारे मे प्रेस स्वतन्त्रता के लिये और पत्रकारो के बुनियादी हितो की रक्षा के लिये यदि आप उनसे बात करेंगे तो प्रधान मन्त्री शायद नाराज नही होगी। आप डरते क्यो है। अगर मुझे मौका मिला तो मैं भी बात करूगा।

सभापति महोदय मधु लिमये जी ने जो रेजुल्यूशन पेश किया है पहले मैं उसको मजूरी के लिये हाउस के सामने पेश करूगा।

सवाल यह है

This House disapproves of the Press Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance No 3 1974) promulgated by the President on the 28th June 1974"

The motion was negatived

सभापति महोदय अब मैं प्रेस कौसिल (अमेंडमेन्ट) बिल, 1974 पर गौर करने के लिये जो प्रस्ताव है उसको पेश करूगा।

सवाल यह है

That the Bill further to amend the Press Council Act 1965 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

सभापति महोदय इस बिल मे कोई अमेन्डमेंटस पेश नही किये गये है इसलिये मैं क्लाजेज की मजूरी के लिये पेश करूगा।

सवाल यह है

"That Clauses 2 to 4 Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 to 4, Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA I beg to move

'That the Bill be passed

MR. CHAIRMAN Motion moved

"That the Bill be passed"

Shri Sarjoo Pandey

श्री सरजू पांडे (बाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय मैं समझता हू वर्गीय समाज मे जहा पूजीपति है और मजदूर है वहा प्रेस की स्वतन्त्रता नाम की कोई चीज नही है। मेरे खयाल मे हमारे देश मे उन्ही पेपर्स को निकलने की आजादी होनी चाहिए जो देश के मजदूर वर्ग के उत्पीडन शोषण अत्याचार का वर्णन करते हो। हम इसी तरह की प्रेस कौसिल का भी गठन करना चाहिए जोकि इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति कर सके। प्रेस स्वतन्त्रता के नाम पर तमाम तरह के रद्दी और खराब लोगो को इस बात का अधिकार देना कि वे मजदूरो के हितो का विरोध कर समाजवाद की बुनियादी नीतियो का विरोध करें और देश मे पूजीवादी अर्थ-व्यवस्था का प्रचार करें---इस तरह की आजादी का कोई अर्थ कम से कम मैं नुमाइंद

नही समझता हू । यह बात मैं इसलिए कहना हू कि जो भी अखबार हैं उनको आप देखें कि वह कितना गन्दा, झूठा और वाहियात प्रचार करते हैं लेकिन जो सही बाते हैं जैसे मजदूरो के उत्पीडन, अत्याचार और शोषण की बातें हैं या देश के लिए जो कान्स्ट्रक्टिव काम हैं उनके लिए अखबारो मे कोई स्थान नही रहता । ना मैं कहना चाहता हू कि इस बिल में तो सिर्फ कौंसिल के टाइम एक्सटेंशन का सवाल है लेकिन अगर इस देश मे सही माने मे समाजवाद लाना है तो उस तरह का वातावरण तैयार करना होगा । हम देखते है कि जनता बराई जल्दी सीखती है अगर बुरी बातो का प्रचार किया जाये तो घटो मे ही वह सारे देश में फैल जाती हैं लेकिन अच्छी बातो का प्रचार करना सम्भव नही हो पाता है । इसलिए स्वतन्त्रता के नाम पर, विचार स्वतन्त्रता प्रेस स्वतन्त्रता और दूसरी तमाम तरह का स्वतन्त्रता—यह स्वतन्त्रता देश को कहा ले जायेगी—यह मेरी समझ मे नही आता । स्वतन्त्रता का भी कोई अर्थ होना चाहिए । आप विचार स्वतन्त्रता देने के लिए तैयार है दुनिया का कोई पूजीवादी वर्ग इसको देने के लिए तैयार नही है । यह विचार स्वतन्त्रता और दुनिया भर की स्वतन्त्रता का झूठा नारा दिया गया है । इसलिए मैं चाहूगा कि आप कोई ऐसा कान्स्ट्रक्टिव बिल लायें जिससे देश मे सही माने मे मजदूर वर्ग के हित मे बात करने वाले अखबार छप सके । आज के अखबार आजादी के नाम पर दुनिया भर की फिजूल बवाल की बाते छापते हैं पैसा लेकर लोगो की बाते छापते है किसी को गाली दिलाना हो तो पैसा दे दो वह छाप दिया जायेगा, किसी की बुराई करानी हो तो पैसा दे दो वह छाप दिया जायगा इसी तरह से मुझे मालूम है कांग्रेस मे एक गुट दूसरे गट को गाली देने के लिए अखबार के लोगो को घर पर बुलाकर खाना खिलाता है, चाय पिलाता है । (व्यवधान) आप लोग क्यो हल्ला कर रहे हैं ? मैं यह कह रहा हू कि स्वतन्त्रता के नाम पर अखबारो मे इस तरह की बाते छापी जाती है इसलिए अखबार बन्दी रहने चाहिए जो कि देश की बुनियादी नीतियो का प्रचार करे और उन तमाम अखबारो पर पाबन्दी लगानी चाहिए जो प्रजातन्त्र का विरोध करते है सेक्यूलेरिज्म का विरोध करते है और जो देश मे पूजीवाद का प्रचार करते है । ऐसे अखबारो को इस देश मे बन्द कर देना चाहिए ।

सभापति जी आप जानते हैं इस देश मे अखबार किस तरह से चलाये जाते हैं । आपने देखा कि रेलवे स्ट्राइक के टाइम पर सारे अखबारो ने कहलवा दिया गया कि सारी रेल गाडिया चलती रही । मैं आपका ज्यादा समय नही लेना चाहता मैं यही कहना चाहता हू कि आकाशवाणी, अखबार और यह प्रैस कौंसिल इस तरह की बननी चाहिए कि सही माने मे देश की भावनाओ को व्यक्त किया जा सके, जनता मे सही बात का प्रचार हो सके । यह प्रेस कौंसिल ऐसी बने जो देश को ठीक दिशा दे सके—यही मेरा सुझाव है ।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (नागौर) : सभापति जी मैं केवल यह सुझाव देना चाहता हू कि इस प्रैस कौंसिल को इफेक्टिव और फोर्सफुल बनाया जाये । अगर यह प्रेस कौंसिल इफेक्टिव नही है

[श्री मूल चन्द डागा]

फोर्सफुल नहीं है तो इसकी स्टैट्यूटरी बैकिंग क्या है । मैं जानना चाहता हू आपका इस तरह की इस्टीट्यूशन जो काम करती हैं उनके पास पनिशमेंट की क्या पावर्स होती हैं ? उनके पास यह पावर रहना बहुत जरूरी होता है । आपने जो प्रेस कौंसिल के लिए एथिक्स और मारल्स रखे हैं उनको कैसे मेनटेन किया जायेगा ? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हू कि इसमें जो जर्नलिस्ट्स होते हैं, एडीटर्स होते है उनमे बहुमत किसका होना चाहिए ? मैं समझता हू बहुमत जर्नलिस्ट्स का होना चाहिए । मैं पूछता हू अगर आजादी नहीं रही तो फिर जिन्दगी का मजा ही क्या है । मैं पूछता हू यह लोग क्या करते हैं ? यह कुछ लोगो की ही खबरे छापते है, उन्ही की बातों को सुनते है लेकिन इस देश के करोडो लोगों की बात कौन सुनेगा ? इसलिए मैं चाहता हू कि इस प्रेस कौंसिल को आप इफेक्टिव और फोर्सफुल बनाये ताकि स्वतन्त्र रूप से जनता के जो विचार है उनको प्रकट किया जा सके ।

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA Mr. Chairman, Sir, about *Samachar Bharti* Shri Limaye has raised certain points I can only say this that he himself is aware that various State Government hold 75 per cent of shares in *Samachar Bharti*. Although we know that there have been complaints of serious lapses about *Samachar Bharti*, to which Shri Limaye has made a reference, we could not interfere into the working of it because of the fear of being charged with interfering with it. That is why we have withheld the temptation of action in this regard.

I would definitely seek his cooperation and help, indeed if he also would be able to persuade Shri Jayaprakash Narain in this connection. We would also try our best to put *Samachar Bharti* on healthy lines.

I would like to say one more thing. I refer to what my friend, Shri Pandey said in regard to the newspapers and bias in political reporting. All I can say is that my party the Congress Party or for that matter, this Government has had no mercy. We ourselves have suffered more from political bias against us from the newspapers. Not only to-day but even during the last three to four years. The problems within my party and the Government are magnified hundred times even thousand times in the newspapers That is all what I have to say.

MR CHAIRMAN अब मैं इस बिल का मजरी के लिए पेश करूंगा ।

सवाल यह है :

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

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16 49 hrs

STATUTORY RESOLUTION *RE* DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

AND

INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY (TAKING OVER OF MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN.

अब आयरन एंड स्टील कम्पनी से सम्बन्धित आर्डिनेंन्स जिस पर श्री मधु लिमये का स्टैट्यूटरी रेजोल्यूशन है, लिया जायेगा ।

श्री मधु लिमये ।

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि:

"This House disaproves of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Amendment Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance No. 4 of 1974, promulgated by the President on the 28th June, 1974"

सभापति महोदय, यह अध्यादेश इस बात का प्रमाण है कि सरकार कभी लम्बान की दृष्टि से चीजों पर नहीं सोचती । जब इंडियन आयरन ऐंड स्टील कम्पनी के इन्तजाम को सरकार ने अपने हाथ में लिया तो सरकार का यह अनुमान था कि दो साल के अन्दर कम्पनी को हम लोग ठीक ठाक करेंगे । हालांकि जब इन्होंने इस कम्पनी के मैनेजमेंट को लिया तब जो उत्पादन की शक्ति थी उसका केवल 27 प्रतिशत मात्र उत्पादन हो रहा था । तो इतना उत्पादन गिरने के बाद सरकार को यह मान कर चलना चाहिये था कि इस कारखाने को ठीक करने में बहुत समय लगेगा । लेकिन यह दो साल का विधेयक लेकर आये हैं और इस का नतीजा हुआ कि जब यह दो साल की मियाद 14 जुलाई, को खत्म होने की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई थी तो इन की नींद खुली और चूंकि संसद उस समय रीसेस में थी, इन्हीं ने अध्यादेश के जरिये इस की मियाद को और तीन साल बढाया । तो मैं मंत्री महोदय, से सब से पहले इस बात का खुलासा चाहता हूं कि जब बजट सूत्र चल रहा था तो क्या मैनेजमेंट ने या इस्पात मंत्रालय के लोगों ने मंत्री जी को यह जानकारी नहीं दी थी कि इंडियन आयरन और स्टील का मामला अभी तक ठीक नहीं हुआ है, उस में और समय लगेगा ? अगर उन को जानकारी दी गई थी तो क्या वजह है कि बजट सत्र में ही इस विधेयक को ले कर यह सदन के सामने नहीं आये ? हर हालत में मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार की कोई दीर्घ-कालीन नीति नहीं होती है । तो मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूं, मेरे शब्दों को नोट कीजिये कि तीन साल में भी यह मामला ठीक नहीं होने वाला है और फिर नया विधेयक या अध्यादेश ले कर आप को सदन के सामने आना होगा । मेरी समझ में नहीं आता जब इस को आप हाथ में ले ही रहे हैं तो अब वापस देने की बात न सोचिये प्राइवेट लोगों के हाथ में । इस का हमेशा के लिये लीजिये और हमेशा के लिये यह झंझट आप खत्म कर दीजिये ।

सभापति जी, अध्यादेश के साथ और इस विधेयक के साथ दो साल के इन के काम का रिव्यू सदन के सामने रखना चाहिये था उनका कहना चाहिये था कि दो साल में इस को सुधारने के लिये क्या किया ? पैदावार बढाने के लिये क्या किया ? जो व्यवस्थापक और मजदूरों के रिश्ते होते हैं उन को सुधारने के लिये क्या किया ? कम्पनी की आर्थिक और वित्तीय स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये क्या किया, आधुनिकीकरण के लिये क्या किया ? इस की सारी जानकारी सदन को देनी चाहिये थी ।

[श्री मधु लिमये]

जब आयरन और स्टील कम्पनी निजी क्षेत्र में थी तो सब से बड़ी शिकायत जो मेरे पास आती थी वह स्क्रैप के बारे में थी। कहा जाता था कि जो स्क्रैप को बेचा जाता है उसमें बड़े पैमाने पर चोरी हो रही है। तो स्क्रैप को बेचने के बारे में कौन सी नई प्रणालियां, सरकारी क्षेत्र में कारखाना आने के बाद चालू की गई हैं, उस की जानकारी मंत्री को देनी चाहिये। लेकिन मैं ने यह सुना है कि कम्पनी वाले पहले सोचते थे कि स्क्रैप को बेचने से 80 लाख रु० मिलेगा, लेकिन जब ओक्शन किया गया तो 1 करोड़ 41 लाख रु० प्राप्त हुआ। और जब दूसरे लौट का ओक्शन किया गया तो उस में 1 करोड़ 55 लाख रु० प्राप्त हुआ। तो इस से साफ है कि ओक्शन के जरिये अधिक आमदनी आप को हो रही है। तो इस ओक्शन प्रणाली को सुधारने के लिये और क्या कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं इस के बारे में भी सदन को विश्वास में लेना चाहिये क्यों कि इन में लाखों रु० का घोटाला हमेशा होता रहा है, और इस की सही जानकारी हम को मिलनी चाहिये। केवल कम्पनी सरकारी मैनेजमेंट में आने से स्थिति सुधरनी है, ऐसी बात नहीं है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात से इन्कार कर सकते हैं कि भद्रावती, भिलाई और दुर्गापुर में जो अच्छा स्टील या अच्छे स्टील प्रोडक्ट बनते हैं उन को इनफीरियर घोषित कर के माल निकाला जाता है और वही माल स्क्रैप में बेचा जाता है। तो क्या आई० एस० को० में भी इस तरह के काम इन दिनों में चल रहे हैं? क्या इस को रोकने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है?

जहां आई० एस० को० में पैदावार बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, उसका उपयोग भी ठीक होना चाहिये। आज सवेरे ही सवाल उठा था कि इस्पात एक ऐसी चीज है कि जिस की हमारे औद्योगिकीकरण के लिये, हमारे कृषि की पैदावार के लिये बड़ी आवश्यकता है और उस का इस्तेमाल ठीक ढंग से करना चाहिये। गलत कामों के लिये इस्तेमाल नहीं होना चाहिये। इस के बारे में अगर मेरे साथी इजाजत दीजिये तो सवेरे वह जो प्रश्न उठाना चाहते थे उस की तफसील आप के सामने पेश करेंगे। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय को पहले भी मैं ने पूछा था आज बम्बई जैसे शहर में 20, 25, 30 मंजिल की जो अट्टालिकायें बन रही हैं उस में सीमेंट और स्टील का बड़े पैमाने पर दुरुपयोग होता है और मैं नहीं समझता, राष्ट्रीय हित में, ऐसे कामों को वरीयता मिलनी चाहिये। मंत्री महोदय ने पिछली बार मुझ से कहा कि इस के बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है। तो मैं आशा करता हूं कि जहां वह आई० एस० को० में वह पैदावार बढ़ाने की बात कहेंगे साथ साथ जो स्टील पैदा होगा सरकारी क्षेत्र में उसका जो इस्तेमाल है वह सही ढंग से और राष्ट्रीय हित की दृष्टि से जो आवश्यक साध्य है उन्हीं कामों के लिये होगा इस की ओर भी वह ध्यान देंगे, ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूं।

दो उदाहरण मेरे सामने आये हैं बम्बई में जो बैंक के रिपलेसमेंट की योजना

है जिस को मैं यहां कई बार उठा चुका हूं इस स्कीम के तहत जो केन्द्र की जमीन है उस की चोरी कर के और बड़े बड़े लोगों को वह बेच कर यह अट्टालिकायें खड़ी की जा रही है । अभी अभी जो 16 फ्लैट्स बेचे गये है उस में 2 करोड़ 90 लाख की रिश्वत दी गई । उस को तो आप रोक नहीं सकते है, कानून मंत्री को कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं है । लेकिन यदि आप यह नियम बनाते है कि जिसी अट्टालिकाओं के लिये एक किलो भी स्टील नहीं मिलेगी तो यह जो रिश्वत और चोरी का मामला है यह सब खत्म हो जायगा । तो आज मैं मंत्री महोदय से चाहता हूं कि इस के बारे में सरकारी नीति का वह ऐलान करें कि उत्पादन बढ़ाने का एक काम है और जो पैदावार है उस का सही इस्तेमाल यह दूसरा काम है ।

अब दूसरा सवाल मोटर कारखाने का है । यह जैसी इंडस्ट्री में यह आता है आप के मंत्रालय में नहीं है मारुती लिमिटेड का 50,000. . (कुछ सदस्यों के हसने पर) आप लोगों को बात जी या मारुती का नाम लेते ही या तो हंसी आती है या क्रोध आता है । आई० आई० एम० कोल० में पैदावार बढ़ाने का काम हम को करना है, लेकिन साथ साथ चूंकि पैदावार बढ़ाने की प्रक्रिया पर कुछ न कुछ लिमिटेशन्स आ ही जाते है इसलिये स्टील के इस्तेमाल के बारे में भी हम को सोचना चाहिये । मारुति लिमिटेड को पचास हजार मोटर गाड़ियां बनाने का लाइसेंस दिया गया है । क्या आप यह सोचते हैं कि इस के लिये जो स्टील कोटा दिया जाएगा यह इस्पात का सदुपयोग होगा ? इसके बारे में आपको, सभापति महोदय, सरकार के ऊपर स्ट्रिक्चर्ज पास करने चाहियें । आपत्कालीन स्थिति में इस तरह इस्पात का दुरुपयोग करना कहां तक उचित और मुनासिब है ? इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि जहां मंत्री महोदय इस्पात के उत्पादन का खयाल रखें वहां वितरण के बारे में भी काफी कड़ी व्यवस्था करें।

17 hrs

इस्पात के जो कारखाने है उनके बारे में आप जानते है कि कुछ तो सार्वजनिक कम्पनियों के लिए और अन्य कामों के लिए इस्पात का वितरण होता है—25-30 परसेंट इस्पात चाहे वह भिलाई का हो, दुर्गापुर का हो, राउरकेला का हो या इसको में बनने वाला हो । क्या यह सही सही है कि 25-30 परसेंट आप प्राइवेट ट्रेड को देते है ? क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि कई बार आपका मैनेजमेंट और रेल मंत्रालय दोनों मिल जाते है आपस में और फर्जी नामों के ऊपर स्टील एलाट कर दिया जाता है, कभी कभी स्टील एलाट किया जाता है बम्बई के पते पर और वह रास्ते में ही उतार लिया जाता है और सारा ब्लैकमार्किट में चला जाता है ? 'इसको' के अन्दर जो वितरण व्यवस्था है क्या उसके ऊपर आपकी निगरानी है और क्या ऐसे कामों के लिए स्टील चला नहीं जाता है ? इसका आपने क्या इन्तजाम किया है ? कापड़िया ग्रुप की अकसर हमारे प्रिय रंजन दास मुंशी मेरे साथ चर्चा किया करते हैं । कुछ साल पहले

[श्री मधु लिमये]

की यह बात है। उनको ड्रम और बैरल बनाने के लिए स्टील शीट्स का कोटा दिया गया। आज भी उनको कोटा मिलता होगा। 'इसको' से भी मिलता होगा। इसका खुलासा मैं चाहता हूं कि आप करें। क्या यह सही नहीं है कि ड्रम और बैरल बनाने के बजाय यह इस्पात की चादरें ये लोग ब्लैकमार्किट में बेच डालते है। इस पर दो तीन सौ प्रतिशत का प्रिमियम चल रहा है। इसी तरह से मशीन के बारे में आप कडाई बरतें। इस्पात के वितरण के बारे में कडाई बरतें, इस्पात के यूज के बारे में, एंड-यूज के बारे में भी कडाई बरतें।

'इसको' की जो कम्पनी है उस में इस वक्त नियुक्तियों को लेकर बहुत विवाद खड़ा हो गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या 'इसको' के सरकार के हाथ में आने के बाद कोई नई रिक्रूटमेंट पालिसी अपनाई गई है क्योंकि जब निजी क्षेत्र में 'इसको' कम्पनी थी उस वक्त कहा जाता है कि इस में नौकरी देने के लिए पांच छः हजार रुपया रिश्वत का लिया जाता था। क्या सरकारी क्षेत्र में आने के बाद जो नई रिक्रूटमेंट पालिसी आपने चालू की है क्या उसके तहत इस तरह के गलत काम बन्द हो गए है? अगर बन्द नहीं हुए है तो क्या इनवैस्टीगेटिंग एजेंसीज की मदद से इनको बन्द करने का आपने कोई प्रयास किया है? इसके बारे में भी खुलासा होना चाहिए।

इसको कम्पनी में कंट्रैक्ट सिस्टम की एक बहुत खतरनाक व्यवस्था थी जिस के चलते जो कांट्रैक्ट लेबर रहती थी उनको ठीक मजदूरी वगैरह नहीं दी जाती थी। आप इसको तीन साल के लिए अपने हाथ में ले रहे हैं। मैं तो चाहता हूं कि हमेशा के लिए लें। इस कांट्रैक्ट प्रणाली को आप समाप्त करें। अगर मजदूरों को सही मजदूरी मिलेगी, उनका सहयोग प्राप्त करने की कोई व्यवस्था आपने की तो आपका उत्पादन भी बढ़ेगा और लेबर भी सन्तुष्ट होगी। बिना मजदूरों का दिली सहयोग प्राप्त किए उत्पादन बढ़ाने की जो जिम्मेदारी आपने ली है उस जिम्मेदारी को आप पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे।

चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति के बारे में बहुत झगड़ा चल रहा है। मेरी यह राय है कि नियुक्तियों और ट्रांसफर वगैरह के बारे में हम लोगों को दखल नहीं देना चाहिये। अगर किसी व्यक्ति का आप किसी विदेशी कम्पनी को छोड़ कर सरकारी क्षेत्र की मदद करने के लिए बुलाते है तो आपको उसको सोच समझ कर बुलाना चाहिये और बुलाने के बाद उसके साथ दुर्व्यवहार नहीं करना चाहिए। अगर आपको लगता है कि वह आदमी अयोग्य है, नालायक है तो क्यों आप उसको बुलाते हैं। लेकिन जब वेतन दे कर बुलाते है तो उनकी टेक्नीकल, मैनेजरियल क्षमता का पूरा पूरा आपको इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये। मैं चाहता हूं कि मैरिट के आधार पर, सिद्धान्तों के आधार पर चयन होना चाहिए।, नियुक्तियां होनी चाहिएं। लेकिन

मैं जानता हूं कि पैरवी के आधार पर यह सरकार चलती है, इनफ्लुएंस पेडलिंग के आधार पर चलती है और इस में चचाओ तरह के प्रेशर्ज मंत्रालय के ऊपर आते है । इन तमाम चीजो को बन्द करने के पक्ष में हूं । एक बात सिद्धान्त के तौर पर कहना चाहता हूं, किसी व्यक्ति की चर्चा नहीं करना चाहता । आज सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिये अच्छे लोग नही मिल रहे हैं । दूसरी बात यह है कि सरकार मे यह प्रवृत्ति है कि यह निणय नही लेना चाहती है और वह इसलिये कि निर्णय लेने में जिम्मेदारी आती है और आज जिम्मेदारी कोई लेना नही चाहता है । जिम्मेदारी का सिद्धान्त जब तक आप सरकार मे और खास कर पब्लिक अडरटेकिन्ग में जारी नही करेंगे, सुधार नही आयेगा । अच्छा काम किया तो उसका उसको फल नही देंगे, शाबाश नही कहेंगे और गलत किया तो उसके लिये दोष नहीं देंगे उसको, तब तक काम सुचारु ढग से नही चल सकेगा । रुस मे डडा चलता है । अमरीका मे—उसको फायर किया जाता है । लेकिन हमारे यहा अयोग्य व्यक्ति को प्रोमोशन दी जाती है, ही इज किक्ड अपस्टेयर्ज । यह हम लोगो की नीति है । इसमे कुछ नही होगा । पब्लिक अंडरटेकिन्ग की जो खराब हालत है इसमें परमनल पालिसी बहुत महत्व रखती है । इस वास्ते बहुत सोच कर आप सिलेक्शन करें । मुझे याद है बहुत साल पहले—यह एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव सर्विस वगैरह तो आज की बात है—हमारे दल मे श्री अच्युत पटवर्धन आदि लोग जब हुआ करते थे तो उसी समय सरकार को कहते थे कि इकोनोमिक सिविल सर्विस चालू की जाए और उसमें ऐसे सभी लोगों को लें जिनको दो तीन साल का बिजिनेस का अनुभव हो, जवानी में उनको ले, फिर उनको ट्रेन आप करें, पहले वे बाहर थोडा अनुभव प्राप्त करे, फिर उनको प्रशिक्षण आप दें, बाद मे उनको मौका दें और निर्णय लेने की निर्णय शक्ति आप उनमे पैदा करे । इस तरह की सिलेक्शन पालिसी, रिक्रूटमेंट पालिसी आप अपनायगे तो मेरा ख्याल है कि इसको जो कारोबार है उसमे हम लोग तरक्की कर पायेंगे ।

प्यास लगने के बाद कुआ खोदने का काम ही आप आज तक करते आ रहे हैं । दो तीन दिनम मैं सरकार को यही सलाह देता आ रहा हू । प्यास लगने के बहुत पहले मे ही आपको कुआ खोदना चाहिये । इस बात का आप विचार करें कि प्यास तो इन्सान को लगती है इस वास्ते कुआ भी पहले से ही खोदना चाहिये ।

MR CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved·

"This House disaproves of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Amendment Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance No. 4 of 1974) promulgated by the President on the 28th June 1974."

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D MALAVIYA): Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration"

MR CHAIRMAN Motion moved

'That the Bill to amend the Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Act 1972 as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration"

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) Mr Chairman Sir I consider this to be a very important measure because Indian Iron and Steel Company occupies a place of importance in the steel sector of this country Sir when the late Steel Minister announced the decision to take over the management of this Company he said

'Steel production is an area which is crucial to development and the country could not possibly watch the deteriorating state of affairs in IISCO

and that

The management of IISCO had been unable to halt the steady deterioration of the production prospects apart from bringing about any improvement There has been no recognition on their part of the urgency of implementing schemes for the modernisation of the industry and its expansion"

I fail to understand how all these schemes could be put into effect when the takeover was only for two years Necessarily the Government had to come forward with this Bill to extend the period of take-over I do not know how within even this extended period of three years the condition of this company which was steadily brought to a decline by the previous management could be rectified, with all the complications and all the capital investment required for modernisation etc I hope the minister will satisfy us whether three years are sufficient to do this Of course, we have never understood why intially it was for two years We have certainly no objection to the extention of the period of management, subject to what I say with regard to its actual day to day management and the policy of management But it was known previously that two years were insufficient during the course of the management Then why did the Government issue an ordinance instead of bringing a Bill in the last session itself? It is rather unfortunate that this Government takes recourse fo issuance of ordinances as a matter of course When an ordinance is issued it is incumbent on the Government to give a statement explaining the circumstances which necessitated its promulgation If you go through this statement which has been issued, the main reason given is that it has not been possible to achieve so many things within a period of two years but not a word is mentioned in it to justify any change in the management I wish to emphasise this point In the garb of seeking extension of the period of management, you are changing lock stock and barrel the entire principle of management laid down in the initial Act by the late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam While suddenly within two years have you changed the very basis of the management? When the initial Act was passed the Custodian Mr Ray, was then Deputy Managing Director of Metal Box and Co a very well known concern in the private sector He was getting a salary of Rs 7500 per month with a lot of perquisites and was entitled to a pension on the basis of his position of Rs 2500 per month on reaching the age of 50 He was only 42 when at the request of the late Steel Minister he joined IISCO It has been admitted in this statement that

"Since the take-over of the management, a number of steps have been

taken to reorganise and streamline the administrative structure, and that substantial progress has been made, but a good deal still remains to be done."

That was when, not even two years have elapsed, or perhaps it has just elapsed.

So from the statement it appears that the management that has been introduced by the first take-over Act has achieved something. So far as the steps taken by the Custodian are concerned, they are in the right direction as appears from the statement issued and circulated by the Ministry So, how unfair it has been that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha it has been stated that the arrangement of having a Custodian and the Advisory Board has not been found to be satisfactory and it was proposed that during the extended period the Board of Management should be constituted to run the management. Nothing has been indicated in the other satement regarding the issue of the Ordinance as to the circumstances, and in what way, the management by the Custodian was unsatisfactory, so far as the Government and the interests of the undertaking are concerned Here I am not pleading for the Custodian because he has already left the organisation You say you want to provide good management to these concerns That is why the management was taken over and you invited these people to make sacrifices and come and run them. Now because of the bureaucratic structure of functioning in Delhi, you throw them away just like that and you do not think of their future. Is this the way you are going to attract good and talented people to these concerns? The basic object of the take-over was good management and proper management. You have not nationalised them; you have taken them over for the purpose of providing better management. Do not forget that. For providing that better management you invited talented people who were previously associated with good European concerns. Unless they were really talented people, you would not have invited them. Now you cannot treat them like untouchables because they were previously associated with European concerns.

So far as the Custodian and the previous Advisory Board are concerned, there are certain things which have to be noticed. One is that there has been increase in production after the takeover It is necessary for us to remember that the Indian Iron and Steel undertaking does not consist solely of the plant for production of steel. There are collieries and kulti works which very much form part of the undertakings Now the functioning of the steel sector has not certainly gone down; it has improved. So, far as the functioning of the kulti works and coal mines are concerned, they are very much better. I am sure the hon Minister will not deny all these things.

As Shri Limaye has also mentioned, during the management of the Custodian and the Advisory Board, for the first time the recruitment policy has been formulated. So far as the sale of scrap was concerned, it was beehive of vested interests Recruitment was being done without a recruitment policy at the sweet will of persons who were in the old management, some of whom have continued with glorified status. The sale of scrap went up from Rs 80 lakhs to Rs. 141 crores

Here I will quote only one instance. Previously the Company's Cinema was being leased at the rate of Rs 700 per month. Because of the auctioned held by the Custodian and the Advisory Board, it fetched Rs 5,500 per month.

There have been several improvements. So far as the functioning of the erstwhile Custodian is concerned, may I place certain facts before the House because we are considering the

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

management also. I would like to quote—I shall indicate the source later on:

"Mr. Ray mainly attempted to set right some of the old, if I may use the word, corrupt practices which undercut the deep-entrenched vested interests and obviously when their interests were injured, they appeared to have entered into a mood of retaliation.. .

Mr. Ray introduced the system of auction, not only of open auction, but of a systematic way of auction which is prevalent and which always takes care of preventing such corruption or possible corruption.

Mr. Ray obviously got into the bad books of such entrenched interests there who used to buy scrap through negotiation and, therefore, it could be one of causes for the tension that grew there and which caused some situation against Mr Ray...."

Then about the system of recruitment, it says:

"Obviously, there was no system of recruitment. They appointed whomsoever they liked. As the House is aware today even in a public sector undertaking it is imposible to appint anybody ..."

Similarly, various things have been said.

I was quoting our present Steel Minister. This is what he has said only a few days back about the performance of Mr. Ray, the erstwhile Custodian.

How this Custodian and others have been treated by this Government? Unceremoniously, you drive him away. Instead of acknowledging the services he has referred and the substantial contribution he has made by making personal sacrifices to a considerable extent, you shabbily treat him. Overnight you issue an Ordinance whereby he becomes an ex-Custodian. This is the way this Government has dealt with this gentleman. Overnight, by operation of this Ordinance, he becomes an ex-Custodian. He loses completely his job. He is not even asked to tender his resignation before this was introduced. This is the way it is being done.

What I am trying to submit is that this is not a way in which you can justify your taking over the management of a concern like this which has a definite position in an important sector, the steel sector, of this country. Some sort of an excuse was given that there was another gentleman who was not pulling on well with the Custodian and, therefore, something had to be done That was engineered by the bureaucrats in Delhi It is taken as an excuse for the purpose of finding scapegoats for justifying bad performance of the Ministry at the Centre.

As I said, the present Minister himself has commended the achievements of this concern during the previous management. But, it seems, so far as the management policy is concerned, actually the Minister hiself is a silent spectator. His bureaucratic set-up the Secretary, has become more powerful than the Minister himself He is very munch under the influence of his ministerial set up.

I would like to know how will the proposed changes help in the improvement of the management which was progressing on somewhat sound lines. If you had guide-lines to give to the previous management, you could have given the guidelines By changing lock stock and barrel, the management that was given not even a two-years trial —you commend them and bring forward a set of management—how is it going to achieve better performance in future? I would like to know, how instead of a whole-time Custodian, a part-time Administrator will help in better management of this important

concern, instead of a whole-time custodian, you have got a partime administrator, who is also Chairman of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., who is also Chairman, I believe, of the Salem Plant He can correct me if I am wrong. How can the same man who has to look after so many important undertakings, including an undertaking like the HSL look after properly the management and the affairs of the Indian Iron and Steel? This is another method of making another scape-goat as they made of the old custodian. They want to make the new administrator another scapegoat, to find excuses to drive him away from the steel sector. I shall come to that as to what is the reason behind the systematic ouster of important and competent people in the steel sector, in the public sector. This is because somebody wants to arrogate to himself all the powers and functions in the steel industry and constituted himself as the overlord

Everybody knows that in this country as new organisation has been set up, called the Steel Authority of India Ltd., when it was set up, it was said that the proposed holding company would operate as a flexible instrument for the development of the industry, the object of creating this corporate giant was not to enforce rigid control but to bring into existence coordinated thinking and direction for the iron and steel sector; the holding company would give broad directions to the operating units which would have a large measure of autonomy.

So far as this Steel Authority is concerned its Chairman is the present Secretary of the Steel Ministry. What has been the performance of SAIL itself? I am quoting from a well known paper, *The Hindu*; this had appeared a few days back:

> "There have been more antics than determined organisational action to improve production on the part of the top brass in SAIL in the past 1½ years. There have been trapeze acts galore and talk of high aims. But pretty little work has been done to improve the working of the factories on the ground or the coking coalmines underground."

When the entire complex of the national steel industry was brought under the control of SAIL, it was hoped, that besides ridding the industry of the deadening effects of bureaucracy, it would provide an institutional framework under which an integrated steel programme would be revived as a national enterprise. But the only thing that the SAIL has achieved so far is to obtain or extract, if I may say so, a better price for steel. Now it has become the biggest monolith in this country.

17.29 hrs.

[SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI *in the Chair*]

I say, the SAIL, under its present management, under the chairmanship of its present Chairman has very little positive achievement to show in its performance. It has tended to be enmeshed in bureaucratic routine and the established grooves. It has encouraged unhealthy competition among the different units. Competition is good but it should be a healthy competition. What is happening is that, so far as the different units are concerned, instead of giving them more and more autonomy, rigid control is being sought to be enforced from the top. So far as SAIL is concerned, it has taken up too much time with the futile and petty exercises to establish alibis for nonperformance and failures rather than with mobilising and galvanising the national resources in manpower and material. I am quoting from another newspaper. So far as this SAIL is concerned, the expectation it held out of making profits has been belied. A price-rise was allowed when they could not increase production and when we are talking of inflation in the country, a price-rise in a most important commodity in the country was allowed so as to show that they were making a

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larger realisation on steel and getting a higher price.

The wonderful management of SAIL has been that while there is a scarcity of steel in the country for important development projects, there was a glut in stocks of steel with the plants. There could not be any movement. At one point of time five lakhs tonnes of steel piled up in the different plants and with a view to get rid of this stock, it was planned that exports of steel should be allowed now. This is the working of SAIL under which the steel industry is put and of the production which was expected to be only 5.4 million tonnes which is a modest estimate, now the revised estimate is 4.3 million tonnes—please correct me if my figures are wrong—which is lower than the figure of 1972.

So far as the hon. Minister, Shri Malaviya is concerned, he has himself said and I am quoting him as it appeared in the newspapers and I did not find any contradiction:

> "The holding companies have become too big. They have to shed some burden and more powers and responsibility would have to be given to individual units."

Now, what has been done is that a new brain-wave has come in SAIL, namely, now to kill the HSL, it is proposed to be split up into three organisations for the management of the three plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur. The reason which has been put forward is that the units will become more autonomous as centres for decision-making, it will isolate bad performance from the good one and it will generate a healthy competition among the companies. These are usual arguments which will appear in any management text-book which are never translated into action much less the SAIL has any intention or capacity to achieve it. It cannot do it. A very curious thing, the reason which is put forward is that the HSL has become a monolith. It is just like the pot calling the kettle black. The SAIL has become a bigger monolith having an enormous control over the entire steel industry including the inputs industry. I am told that now almost the day to day decision in regard to HSL are being taken at Delhi and in fact the headquarters of HSL has been transferred to Delhi because SAIL wants to control the day to day activity and control and management of HSL. It is not a question of giving more autonomy to the units but they want to arrogate more and more powers and they are not given even the minimum autonomy to take decision for the purpose of running the industry. Instead of developing what is known as an industrial culture, the SAIL has brought about and perpetuated a civil service culture in the steel industry in the country. The SAIL has miserably failed in the sphere of developing a federal structure and in this regard, has achieved notoriety in creating muddles in coal, power, transportation and the steel industries.

So far as the Board of Management is being constituted, I would like the hon. Minister to explain to us, as I indicated, how the new change could bring about a better result in the performance, how a part-time administrator could do it better and what was the difficulty in the Advisory Board and the Custodian. I am making it clear, not that you must continue Mr. X or Mr. Y or Mr. Z. I am not on that. I want the hon. Minister to satisfy the country that you have done it for the real benefit of this company and the country, not for satisfying the fads of any particular individual, however powerful he may be. He might occupy an important position in the steel set up on the sectoral set-up that you have created but that cannot be the only sort of justification for tinkering with this

problem. I think the hon. Minister will go into this aspect and try to satisfy us on this point. And, about the new management board constituted, we would like to know whether members are to be given specific jobs, whether they are technically qualified etc. and what sort of activities they will be entrusted with. We would like to know what guidelines will be given from Delhi. Don't bring in SAIL in that. So far as labour representation is concerned, a particular gentleman is selected, I have nothing against him personally. What we wish to point out is only this that you have to find out as to who is true representative of labour. Let not Government decide beforehand who will be the leader, whom they want to represent and all that. Let them introduce a system of finding out either by vote or by ballot who really represents majority of the workers. I am not asking you should select particular union, X or Y or Z or give weightage to particular trade union. What we say is that proper weightage should be there who has majority support. Whatever outstanding problems of workmen are there should be looked into and the contract labour should be abolished. Proper recruitment policy should be there; such a policy should be properly formulated and continued Jobs should not be given either as a matter of political favour nor should it be left to vagaries of particular individuals however powerful they may be.

We support the Bill in so far as it provides for extension of the period of management but we think that even three years will not be sufficient. You should have sufficient foresight even now. But as far as the Bill seeks to interfere with the previous management we are not satisfied that what is being now introduced will be better. I request the Minister to consider all these points and to see that the management is done properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total time allotted is two hours. If the hon. Members keep this in mind, we may be able to accommodate more hon. Members. Mr. Swaran Singh Sokhi.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHURAIAH): We are very much short of time. The Bill has to become an Act and receive the President's assent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No more slip.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: It is my duty to mention. I would be grateful if it is passed tomorrow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: It is not so easy, tomorrow is Friday and our official time is limited. I request the cooperation of the House to see that this Bill is passed. tomorrow. I will be very grateful indeed for this.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI (Jamshedpur): This is an Amendment Bill to amend the taking over of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (Takmg over of Management) Act, 1972, to which I have given four amendments. Seeing the statement of the Minister, explaining the circumstances which necessitated the promulgation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Amendment Ordinance 1974, I am really surprised why again the hon'ble Steel Minister has come forward for extension of three years with effect from the 14th July, 1974,—perhaps under pressure from the Secretary of the Steel and Mines Ministry, who has made a mess of the steel plants.

Sir, the Steel Minister has stated recently that the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Burnpur was established fifty years ago, that is, some time

[Sardar Swaran Singh Sokhi]

in 1924, which is incorrect. I do not know who gave him this information. Actually the IISCO's Steel Plant at Burnpur was established 10 years later than the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., in the year 1917 and TISCO at Jamshedpur in 1907.

This is still written on the Gate of the Plant, just opposite Burnpur Railway Station. I think he never cared to visit the Plant through that gate, which is generally used by the workers and labour of the IISCO Plant.

Sir, when the taking over the Management Bill, of Indian Iron and Steel Co., at Burnpur came up for approval of Lok Sabha in 1972, I objected to the taking over of this Plant for two years which is a matter of record and can be ascertained from the proceedings of the House. My point of objection was, why the Government is taking over this Plant only for two years, instead of nationalisation of it straightway in public interest. But, the then Steel Minister did not care to listen to me. I clearly told the House at that time that in two years, the management cannot even repair the machinery of the steel plant, even it may spend any amount of money on it, because I know the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., since 1948 and its functioning as well since then

The result is that the Steel Minister, Shri K. D. Malaviya, has come for approval of this august House for extension of three years more on certain grounds which, according to me are baseless. I do not agree with the statement that the takeover of the Steel Plant at Burnpur was only due to deterioration in the condition of the Plant, and replacement over a period of years.

As you know, Sir, any steel plant or any Mill cannot run for half a century or more without proper maintenance. You cannot even run a bicycle without proper maintenance, even for a year. The Plant has got most uptodate Blast Furance, Coke Oven and other Mills, much more modern than TISCO. How TISCO at Jamshedpur is running which was established ten years earlier than IISCO. In that case, why don't you take over Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., at Jamshedpur too when you are going to give money for expansion to TISCO very shortly which is much more older than IISCO and giving more production than this steel plant to their rated capacity.

Sir, it is not that the Plant only runs itself, but there should be proper Management having good labour relations, and not as the bureaucrats are running the public sector plants today.

Sir, after takeover about Rs. 10 crores were spent, but in spite of that, the production has gone down by 50 per cent. Why? I want to know from the hon. Minister and he should give a categorical reply. It is public money you spend. What sort of re organisation and streamlining you have done after take over. The old corrupt officers are still there, I am told. Why has there been no increase in production? What substantial progress has been made there—whether it is only on paper? Who made the assessment of the entire plant before takeover, because now you have stated in the statement and I quote,

> "On actually taking down some of the items of the equipment, the condition was found to be much worse than anticipated."

Such officers who are responsible for such wrong assessment, should be suspended forthwith pending enquiry and should be dismissed.

I hereby again suggest that this plant should be immediately nationalised instead of wasting more time and money on it.

Another point that I have is this. One member of the Management Board should be nominated from amongst the labour. That means "actual worker" who may be an elected member of the only one recognised labour union of the company.

With these words, I support this Bill.

*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on The Indian Iron and Steel Company (Taking over of Management) Amendment Bill, 1974.

Sir, originally the control of management of IISCO was taken over by the Government for a period of two years. It was not unknown to the Government that this two-year period would lapse on 14th July, 1974. During this period, the Government, while administering this undertaking, have come to know the deficiencies in the day-to-day working. In spite of that, the President promulgated an Ordinance only on 28th June, 1974 extending the period of Government's control by three more years. If the Government had brought forward a Bill of this nature during the last Budget Session of this House, which was not impossible for them to do, the Presidential Proclamation could have been avoided. I condemn the Government's way of issuing Presidential Ordinances at the last minute.

I regret that the Government have not, even now, come with a Bill nationalising IISCO. I also wonder from where the Government are getting novel ideas of legislating. Now the Government's two-year control period is over. Since the Government feel that they should control the management of IISCO for a further period, it is being extended by three years. After three years also, if it is felt necessary that the period of control should be extended, it will be extended by two years by a directive and again by two years, if necessary. However, the total period of control would not be beyond 10 years. This is the substance of Clause 3 of this Amending Bill.

Sir, this Government are committed to the establishment of egalitarian society in the country. I wonder whether the Government are determined to achieve this laudable objective only in this manner.

While replying to the date in the Rajya Sabha, Shri K. D. Malavia enumerated the problems that beset the Government in nationalising IISCO. He has pointed out that there are a large number of shareholders and the Government, at this juncture of unprecedented financial stringency, do not have that much resource to pay to the shareholders, I would like to make a suggestion here. Recently, the Government have enacted a law on compulsory deposit. On the basis of this law, the money that should be given to the shareholders can be put in a compulsory deposit. Taking recourse to this, the Government can nationalise IISCO immediately.

There is also no need to pay any compensation to the erstwhile management of IISCO. Shri K. D. Malavia has himself stated in the Rajya Sabha that at the time of taking over the control of management of IISCO., the unit was a junk. So there is no need to pay any compensation to a junk.

I would like to know what the Government propose to do after 10 years. I want to know this from the hon. Minister because of certain reasonable apprehensions. The Government propose to invest a sum Rs. 50 crores for rejuvenating IISCO during this period. Will the Government, after 10 years, hand it over to the erstwhile management or will the Government nationalise it? In case the Government decide to nationalise

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri E. R. Krishnan]

it, then they will certainly be confronted with certain problems. After repairing and modernising the unit, after augmenting substantially the production, naturally the value of assets would have gone up. What would the Government do, if the management demanded a huge compensation on the basis of the current value of the assets of the undertaking? Similarly, the value of shares of IISCO would also have picked up considerably. Naturally the Government would have to pay many times more than what they would now pay to the shareholders. If Government decide to hand it over to the erstwhile management, then all the benefits would accrue to the management.

Sir, I would like to know how the Government would solve the problems which are sure to arise later. When I see a Bill of this nature, I begin to feel whether such a legislation is being brought forward by the Government in the interest and general welfare of the common people of our country or in the interest of capitalists and monopoly industrialists of our country. If the Government do not want to waste tax-payers' money, if the Government want to ensure that the core sector steel industry is in the public sector, if the Government want to augment steel production substantially and meet the growing needs of the country—steel is always in short supply—then, the Government must bring forward a Bill in this very session of Lok Sabha for nationalising IISCO.

With these words, I conclude

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I want to make only one point and it is this. Yesterday, we were discussing the Industries (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill asking for extension of time. At that time also it was stated that this policy of piece-meal take-over under some Act and then asking for further extension was self-defeating, because one cannot make any investments in these undertakings during this period. If one makes any investments, that adds to the assets of the undertaking and increases its value. And tomorow when you want to nationalise, you will have to pay heavier compensation as in the case of the textile mills, for example. So, I would like to know what protection is there.

Government then say that they cannot give money to the shareholders. As the hon. Minister himself had stated, the value of the shares had come down practically to zero when they had taken it over first. Why did they not think in terms of taking it over completely? The hon. Minister says that the machinery was junk, according to him, and the written down value of the assets must have come down to zero by that time and so also the value of the shares. So, why did they not think in terms of completely taking it over, or what is called, nationalising this concern? They could have prepared a plan, a plan of good management, a plan of investment of capital in machinery and a plan also for having workers' participation and cooperation, a full-fledged plan in short to boost the production which is such a dire necessity in the country today. Why are Government not thinking in these terms? It appears so clear to commonsense that this ought to be done not only in IISCO but in the case of the other undertakings also.

The hon. Minister had asked some of us to go and see Durgapur. We have gone and seen Durgapur also, and we feel that in all our steel mills today, if only we could achieve even 75 per cent of the rated capacity, we shall be saving Rs. 700 crores in terms of foreign exchange. What tremendous things it would mean! I am asking only for 75 per cent of the rated capacity to be achieved. In regard to

whatever coordination they want, the major factor is the labour problem.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: He is not asking for 100 per cent?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am prepared to be satisfied with even 75 per cent today.

The most important factor is participation of labour. It is labour alone which can accomplish the miracle. For heaven's sake, as I have been repeatedly saying, the best thing to have this is by outing across trade union rivalry. We can do this by asking the employees to forget their bias for this or that union; let us give an opportunity to the employees and ask them to elect their own representatives right from the shop level to the management level. After they come into the management, we must tell them that thereafter their wages or remuneration or bonus would be linked with production. Let us put this responsibility on them and take the employees into confidence and they will be able to accomplish the miracle. No wizard whether in the SAIL or any other place can do this. The only people who can do it are the employees or the workers. So, please for heaven's sake, let the hon. Minister take them into confidence when they want to reorganise the management, and nationalise it as soon as possible.

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा (अमलगर) : यह जो विधेयक आया है इससे मुझे बहुत निराशा हुई है । आशा यह थी और जैसा कंसलटेटिव कमेटी में भी एक मत से यह तय हुआ था और सरकार से सिफारिश की गई थी कि इसका राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जाए लेकिन वैसा न करके उसी टेक ओवर को आप और आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं । इसकी वजह से जो खूटियां अभी है, पूंजी लगाने में दिक्कत है वे बनी रहेंगी और बाद में जब राष्ट्रीकरण का सवाल आयेगा और मुआवजा देने का सवाल आयेगा तो उसमें भी दिक्कतें होंगी, अगर यही व्यवस्था रह गई तब यही सरकार रह गई तब । अगर सरकार बदल गई तब दूसरी बात है । इस वास्ते मैं समझता हूं कि मौजूदा टेक ओवर को आगे बढाने का जो प्रस्ताव है वह निराशाजनक कदम है और यह काम जो हमने उम्मीद की थी उसके मुताबिक नहीं है ।

कुछ दिन पहले तक हमारे देश में जो करोड़पति है उनके प्रचार और उनके अखबार में ये सब थे और आम तौर से ये पब्लिक सेक्टर के खिलाफ बोलना अपना कर्तव्य समझते थे । लेकिन कपड़ा मिलों की मिसाल ही आप लें । सौ से ऊपर जो मिल ली गई है वे सभी बेकार पड़ी थी कोई दो साल से कोई चार साल से और कोई आठ साल से । लेकिन पहले ही साल हमने देखा है कि सरकार द्वारा उन मिलों को अपने हाथ में लेते ही गड़बड़ी, बदइन्तजामी और भ्रष्टाचार आदि सबके बावजूद लगभग सभी कपड़ा मिलों ने मुनाफा कमा कर आपको दिया है । चूंकि ये मिलें बेकार पड़ी थी इस वास्ते यह एक राष्ट्रीय क्षति हो रही थी । करोड़पतियों को भी इस कारण से मुनाफा नहीं हो रहा था क्योंकि वे बेकार पड़ी थीं । साथ ही आप यह भी देखें कि पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग ने पिछले साल के मुकाबले में अपना मुनाफा दो गुना बढ़ाया है । ऐसी अवस्था में—मैं समझता हूं कि—आत्म विश्वास के साथ कदम आगे बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता थी,

[श्री भोगेन्द्र झा]

और राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की आवश्यकता थी। लेकिन रास्ते में आप कहते है कि कुछ बाधायें हैं। मेरा शक है इसमें एक बहुत बडी बाधा टिसको की रही है टाटा एक बहुत बडी बाधा आपके रास्ते में रहे है। टिसको कबाब में हड्डी के समान है। वहा पर टाटा का व्यक्तिगत प्रबन्ध है, उसका व्यक्तिगत मिलकियत है जमशेदपुर में। अब उसके एक ओर राउडकेला है दूसरी तरफ बोकारो है तीसरी तरफ दुर्गापुर है। अब चूकि इन तीनो के बीचोबीच जो व्यक्तिगत प्रबन्ध है उसके चलने जो हमे थोडी बहुत खबरे मिलती है उनके आधार पर हम कह सकते है कि पब्लिक सैक्टर के इस्पात कारखानो का लाभदायक तरीके से चल पाना बडा कठिन है। कारण यह है कि पब्लिक सैक्टर की ओर से कोई प्राइवेट सैक्टर वाले को करप्ट नही कर सकता है जब कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर वाला जो है वह भ्रष्ट तरीके अपना करके पब्लिक सैक्टर वाले को करप्ट कर सकता है। अगर सरकार को टाटा से इतनी ज्यादा मुहब्बत है तो मै चाहता हूं कि जिस तरह से आपने एयर इंडिया का चेयरमन टाटा को बना दिया है उसी तरह से स्टील आथोरिटी आफ इंडिया का चेयरमन भी टाटा को बना दें लेकिन टिसको का भी आप राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दे। यह बहुत ही मुनासिब बात होगी। व्यक्तिगत दुश्मनी के आधार पर मैं यह बात कह रहा हू,—आप ऐसा न माने।

आप देखे कि कुछ दिन पहले प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा था कि कलकत्ता मे भाषण देते हुये कि एक बहुत बडे करोडपति ने मुझे धमकी दी है कि उनका अगर हमने मुकदमा नही हटाया तो वह हमारे लिए बिहार मे मुसीबत मे डाल देगे। हम जानते ही है कि बिहार मे उपद्रव हुये है। उस करोडपति का नाम नही लिया था उन्होने लेकिन मै ले रहा हू। बिहार मे उपद्रवो के पीछे उनका हाथ था। क्या मालवीय जी तथा भारत सरकार को इस बात का पता नही है ? श्री राम नाथ गोयनका ने क्या यह धमकी नही दी कि बिहार के बाद उत्तर प्रदेश मे भी उपद्रव करा....

MR CHAIRMAN: The hon member might stop here and resume his speech tomorrow

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

18 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday August 30, 1974/Bhadra 8, 1896 (Saka).

MGIPND—M—1960LS